

NUNAVUT HANSARD

UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Hon. David Akeeagok
(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister Responsible for Mines; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; Minister Responsible for Nunavut Development Corporation; Minister Responsible for Trade; Minister responsible for Human Rights Tribunal; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Indigenous Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister Responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council; Minister responsible for Seniors

Bobby Anavilok
(Kugluktuk)

Janet Brewster
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)

Hon. Pamela Gross
(Cambridge Bay)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

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(South Baffin)

Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services

Joelie Kaernek
(Amittuq)

Mary Killiktee
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)

Minister of Finance; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Board; Minister responsible for Liquor and Cannabis Commission; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

Hon. John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Solomon Malliki
(Aivilik)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Family Services; Minister responsible for Homelessness; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Karen Nutarak
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(Hudson Bay)

Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for Energy; Minister responsible for Languages

Joanna Quassa
(Aggu)

Inagayuk Quqqiaq
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	1
Ministers' Statements	1
Members' Statements	3
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	6
Oral Questions	7
Tabling of Documents	27
Notices of Motions.....	28
Motions	28
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	30
Report of the Committee of the Whole.....	71
Third Reading of Bills	71
Assent to Bills.....	74
Tribute to the Clerk.....	75
Orders of the Day	87

A.

Daily References

Thursday, November 7, 2024 1

B.

Ministers' Statements

512 – 6(2): Minister Absent from the House (Joanasie) 1
513 – 6(2): Supported Housing Capital Program (Kusugak)..... 1
514 – 6(2): Census Language Data Analysis Report (Qavvik)..... 2

C.

Members' Statements

693 – 6(2): Appreciation of Ministerial Visit (Quassa)..... 3
694 – 6(2): Appreciation of Mr. John Quirke (Quqqiaq) 3
695 – 6(2): Happy International Inuit Day (Akeeagok P)..... 4
696 – 6(2): Happy International Inuit Day (Gross)..... 4
697 – 6(2): Tribute to Veteran Eddy Weetaltuk (Qavvik) 5
698 – 6(2): Tribute to Aluki Kotierk (Akeeagok D) 6

D.

Oral Questions

1039 – 6(2): Beyond Meadowbank (Simailak)..... 7

1040 – 6(2): Student Enrollment and Services (Lightstone)..... 9

1041 – 6(2): Regulation and Taxation of Cannabis, Liquor and Vaping
Products (Brewster) 11

1042 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management (Kaernek) 12

1043 – 6(2): Funding for Local Housing Organizations (Quqqiaq)..... 14

1044 – 6(2): Inuinnaqtun Language (Anavilok) 16

1045 – 6(2): Nunavut's Land Use Plan (Savikataaq) 17

1046 – 6(2): Property Taxes (Sammurtok)..... 20

1047 – 6(2): IT System Transfer from QEC to CGIS (Hickes) 21

1048 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure (Quassa)..... 22

1049 – 6(2): FANS Program (Malliki)..... 24

1050 – 6(2): Beyond Meadowbank (Simailak)..... 25

E.

Tabling of Documents

341 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Northern Employees Benefits Services Annual Report
(Joanasie)..... 27

342 – 6(2): Correspondence from Chairperson of the Board of Directors of
the Taloyoak Housing Authority (Quqqiaq)..... 27

343 – 6(2): Correspondence from Minister of Economic Development and
Transportation Concerning Airport Weather Observer Operations (Quqqiaq) 27

344 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly's 2025 Sitting Calendar (Akoak)..... 27

345 – 6(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements (Akoak)..... 27

F.

Motions

43 – 6(2): Appointment of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
(Brewster) 28

G.

Bills

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act.
No. 3, 2023-2024 – Third Reading 71

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 –
Third Reading 72

Bill 55 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance Act)
No. 1, 2024-2025 – Third Reading 72

Bill 56 – Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act 2023-2024 – Third Reading 72

Bill 65 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading 72

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act – Third
Reading 73

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act –
Third Reading 73

Bill 51 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading 73

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend The Integrity Act – Third Reading 73

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances
Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Third Reading 73

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 7, 2024

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeeagok, Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Hon. Tony Akoak, Mr. Bobby Anavilok, Ms. Janet Brewster, Hon. Pamela Gross, Mr. George Hickes, Hon. David Joanasie, Mr. Joeline Kaernerker, Hon. Lorne Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr. Solomon Malliki, Mr. Daniel Qavvik, Hon. Joanna Quassa, Mr. Inagayuk Quqqiaq, Mr. Alexander Sammurtok, Mr. Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Craig Simailak.

>>*House commenced at 10:00*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Tony Akoak): Good morning. Before we proceed, we'll have Mr. David Akeeagok lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning, everyone. Ullaakuut. (no interpretation) with today being the last day for our clerk, we should have no mistakes today.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Hon. Government House leader, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 512 – 6(2): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning all Nunavummiut. For your information, my colleague John Main won't be here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Minister's Statement 513 – 6(2): Supported Housing Capital Program

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Good morning, colleagues, and the Clerk of the Assembly, congratulations on your final day in the House.

Mr. Speaker, we are making progress in our mission to provide more housing choices to Nunavummiut with the launch of the Supported Housing Capital Program at the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Our promise to expand Nunavut's housing continuum by 3,000

units by 2030, Mr. Speaker, calls a call for 300 more supported housing units in our communities. Support housing units are purpose-built, designed specifically to provide people with the supports they need to live independently. Mr. Speaker, this includes housing support for elders, people with disabilities, women and children seeking shelter from violence, people experiencing homelessness, and others living in vulnerable positions.

The supported housing capital program provides forgivable loans to eligibility entities in the amounts of \$100,000 per single room occupancy unit or bed, and/or \$150,000 for self-contained units.

Mr. Speaker, applications for this program will be available in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's website later this month.

Mr. Speaker this initiative is the result of collaboration between Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Government of Nunavut's Departments of Family Services, Justice and Health through the Supported Housing Working Group. This working group will receive, review, and recommend project for capital funding.

I want to thank my colleagues in this House and their staff for their collaboration and their commitment to delivering this new program. Supported housing units give more Nunavummiut the choice to live independently in a safe environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister's Statement. Hon. Minister of Culture and Heritage, Mr. Qavvik.

Minister's Statement 514 – 6(2): Census Language Data Analysis Report

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Minister of Languages to announce the release today of the 2021 Census Language Data Analysis Report for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this commissioned analysis is the result of a collaboration between my department and Statistics Canada. This report provides Nunavummiut with a more detailed analysis of the raw data already published highlighting underlying trends. The report is now available on the Statistics Canada website in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English, and French.

Mr. Speaker, the insights from this report will help target our efforts to best preserve, protect, and promote Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members Statements'. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 693 – 6(2): Appreciation of Ministerial Visit

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Environment and Culture. This past spring the minister was in our community visiting and touring the hamlet office. We are grateful for the big support he provided in the community and made the community more aware of your responsibilities along with the hamlet's responsibilities.

Speaker: Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Returns to Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq. Members' Statements. Do members agree we go back to item 3, Members' Statements?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Agreed. Item 3, Member's Statement. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Member's Statement 694 – 6(2): Appreciation of Mr. John Quirke

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honours to say thank you to Mr. Quirke for serving Nunavummiut greatly and all the MLAs before me.

Mr. Speaker, before becoming MLA, every time I passed this Legislative Assembly, my dream was to sit in the House of Mr. Speaker, and today it is a reality and a privilege. Mr. Speaker, after being and into this Sixth Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I had made a phone call to Mr. Quirke, and his wife had answered the phone. I had asked for Mr. Quirke, and the response I had received was he was sleeping. I said, "Let him rest", and his wife responded, "No, I will wake him up to take the call because he wanted to be woken up when an MLA calls."

Mr. Speaker, right then and there immediately he cares for all of Nunavummiut and all MLAs.

Mr. Quirke, I thank you greatly and what I'll miss most is you reading *Orders of the Day* and your smile. I wish you all the best and to your family, John, Mr. Quirke, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Member's Statement 695 – 6(2): Happy International Inuit Day

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you that we can revert back to this item, being an important day. I would like to thank the clerk being our last day, and for him.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, today is also Inuit Day in all the circumpolar world, and as an Inuk, you are very proud when you consider where we came from and the strength of Inuit and we are here today because Inuit strive for this.

I'm always proud and cite individuals and I always run to recognize them, Inuit who want to represent their people. First of all in the region of Aluki Kotierk, Natan Obed, and from federal government, Laurie Idlout. Such individuals work very hard and I'm always proud of their efforts. And in particular today you reflect back where we come from and where we are going. And their forward-looking has brought us to this day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Member's Statement 696 – 6(2): Happy International Inuit Day

Hon. Pamela Gross (interpretation): *Quana, Uqaqti.* (no interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a very Happy International Inuit Day to our fellow Nunavummiut and our Inuit across international lands of Russia, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. I hope that all Inuit collectively have a wonderful day celebrating who our ancestors were and bringing us to where we are today, as we walk in two worlds, Mr. Speaker. I always embrace and am thankful for all of the people who pass on our culture, our language, our stories, our traditions in our daily lives, whether it be at home or in school or in cultural programs that are offered in our communities. We're thankful for everyone who does pass on that knowledge.

To those that learned the knowledge and are the next generation going forward, it's always so special to embrace our identity and who we are as Inuit and I thank everyone for having that instilled in us, that those people that practise and put that into who we are. And as we learn our language, and me as an Inuk wanting to learn Inuinnaqtun, I thank my teachers that are there to support and mentor through some of the hardest things is

learning a language. *Quana* to everyone who is involved in those activities. So I hope everyone has a wonderful day. *Quana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Member's Statement 697 – 6(2): Tribute to Veteran Eddy Weetaltuk (Qavvik)

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise today to pay tribute and honour an Inuk war veteran from the Nunavik region. I want to recognize the late Eddy Weetaltuk, who came from the Student Islands in James Bay and was born in 1932.

In the early 1950s Weetaltuk left the north to work as a logger in Fort-Coulonge, in western Quebec. At the age of 19 Weetaltuk went to Ottawa and used a fake social insurance card to join the 1st battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Mr. Speaker, Weetaltuk changed his identity because at the time Inuit weren't allowed to join the army. He changed his name to Eddy Vital.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army and is believed to be the first Canadian Inuit soldier who fought overseas in the Korean War. After serving about 15 years with the Armed Forces, he later returned to the north to his family, and settled in at Kuujuuarapik. He spent his final days in his home community of Umiujaq, just north of Kuujuuarapik, and died at the age of 73 in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Weetaltuk had many stories to tell about his experiences, and he even wrote a book, "From the Tundra to the Trenches."

Mr. Speaker, 516 Canadians died during the Korean War, and Weetaltuk survived. His courage, his identity, his sacrifice for the sake of all Canadians makes him a true Canadian hero. He is my hero. I send my respect to the people of Nunavik and to all his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me to pay tribute and honour a veteran Inuk war soldier. Mr. Speaker, let's not forget every Canadian's life lost during the First and Second World Wars in the 19th century. Without their sacrifices for our country, we would not be here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statement. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Member's Statement 698 – 6(2): Tribute to Aluki Kotierk

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is Inuit Day today. I would like to say thank you to Aluki Kotierk, who was the two-term president of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. She has indicated that she will not be running again, but she has always worked hard on behalf of the Inuit in Canada and internationally, and within Nunavut she worked real hard to get improvements for Inuit lives.

I first met Aluki at the culture centre when I was their deputy minister and she became our director, and ever since that time and right after she completed her education, she always knew that she wanted to improve Inuit lives and she became a deputy minister. And also, after she got elected into Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, she was completely committed and did great work with languages and education she pushed real hard for. We should never forget that when people run for offices. And Aluki did what she said she would do. I wanted to talk when she was here, but it's our last day and I haven't seen her here.

I want to thank her a lot for all the things that she has done and all the things that she has done will not be forgotten. When you are an elected official, you carry a heavy burden, and now she will be handing over that burden to someone else. I want to thank her a lot for all the things that she has done to improve Nunavut Tunngavik. She has helped rise up Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and whatever she plans to do next, I am confident that she will keep on helping trying to improve Inuit lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Savikataaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Arviat. I want to recognize someone from Arviat. It's rare to see people from Arviat coming into the Gallery to watch the proceedings. I would like to welcome two people from Arviat. Please rise when I say your name. Julie Angalik (ph) and her daughter, Carmen Angalik (ph). Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to your Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Pauloosie Akeegok.

Hon. P.J. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for also recognizing me. I rise today to recognize our elder, Simon Nattaq. I would like to welcome him to his House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Julia Angalik and her daughter, Carmen. I lived in the same community, but she moved away. I want to welcome her to the House. Thank you.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 1039 – 6(2): Beyond Meadowbank

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Good morning to my colleagues and people of Baker Lake. Have a great day today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct, my questions are for the Minister responsible for Mines. Mr. Speaker, I am very confident that the Minister will agree with me when I say that the mine medevac project outside of Baker Lake and because of that mine, the people of Keewatin are making good money, and it has changed our communities for the better.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the training, employment, and business opportunities that the mines have provided have lifted many, many families out of the cycle of unemployment and poverty. There have been some occasions even where some families had their first holiday in the south, thanks to the mining activity around Baker Lake.

But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the residents of Baker Lake will need to prepare for the closure of the Meadowbank Gold Mine over the next four years. They are now predicting a 2028 mine closure year.

As the Minister is aware, the municipality of Baker Lake and Agnico-Eagle have established a Beyond Meadowbank Working Committee, to address the transition. Can the Minister indicate how his department can support the work of the committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our staff can be a valuable asset to that committee. If we are invited to participate is one way. Another way is that there are different, various programs Economic Development and Transportation has, and

I can definitely look into what kind of programs the committee could qualify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like the Minister is seeking an invitation, so I'll take this opportunity now to offer an open invitation to the Minister to come to Baker Lake, along with his Economic Development and Transportation staff, to meet with the members of the Beyond Meadowbank Working Committee and other committee members of Baker Lake while they are there.

Mr. Speaker, one of the specific areas that the working committee is addressing is the potential repurposing of existing infrastructure at the site. Can the Minister indicate what discussions his department has had to date on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. We have always worked with Agnico-Eagle Mines, and they invited us last month and it is going to be on November 18 where we have been invited to go to them. As the mine is starting to close down, we are going to go see what else or how else we can use the infrastructure there. Agnico-Eagle officials will be there, so I'm planning to go there because this will be a very important meeting and we'll be able to see what else we can, or how else we can use the infrastructure there. I'm eager to plan with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I do hope that you will travel another 100 kilometres south directly to Baker Lake, not just to Meadowbank but come into Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as I have stated many, many times in this House, I strongly believe that our government needs to be significantly more decisive in its support for the mining sector, including the development of potential critical mineral deposits. These resources have significant long-term potential for our territory and the nation as a whole.

Can the Minister indicate how he will engage with the Beyond Meadowbank Working Committee to ensure that the proposed Inuit Land Use Plan does not block development in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Mines, Mr. David Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement with our federal counterparts in terms of having a roundtable on critical minerals, or with the critical minerals. That forum would bring all the stakeholders in and have discussions related to critical minerals. That would also see what kind of processes there are, such as the Draft Land Use Plan or the Nunavut Impact Review Board, how they conduct. So having all that and having engagements at the federal, territorial, and hopefully at the local level, that we come, everybody comes to table in terms of going through to discuss critical minerals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Question 1040 – 6(2): Student Enrollment and Services

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, but before I begin asking my question, I do like to note that I was pleased to help the Minister of Education celebrate the record year of high school graduates which the Department of Education had noted that there was over 300 graduates in the 2023-2024 high school year. Congratulations to the Minister of Education and the department.

Mr. Speaker, to get into my question, as the Department of Education has seen a record number of high school graduates, the first question I would like to ask the Minister of Arctic College is, has the college seen a record number of enrolments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Acting Hon. Minister of Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, with our growing territory, our young population continues to expand, as they are entering and completing high school, we do hope and try to encourage and have opportunities for them for post-secondary education. According to Arctic College, as of today, we have approximately 594 students enrolled across all programs, and whether it's a degree or a diploma, all across. We do hope that this trend will continue to go up, given our need for many different skilled workers in all fields. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that response. I'm very excited to hear that there's nearly 600 students enrolled in Arctic College, which leads me to my next line of questioning.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College tabled the college's annual report in November 2023, approximately one year ago. Upon review of the report I did note that there was some very crucial information missing from the annual report. It

contains a lot of words and descriptions of programs, but doesn't contain much information about enrolments, and more importantly graduation, amount of students graduating, let alone the number of students entering their field of study.

I would like to ask, for the next question: When will the Minister be tabling the next annual report and will it, has the Minister taken my recommendation into consideration and will that information be included in the next report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Acting Minister I'm not in a position to make commitments on our colleague's behalf, but I do know that the 2023-2024 annual report for the college has been approved by the board of directors, and is currently being translated. Once translated the minister responsible has to table it into the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, one key aspect in ensuring the success of student achievement is support services. The Department of Education has made significant investment into their school mental health support services, and I note that in the recent annual report there were up to 90 students that have benefitted from this crucial support.

As the Department of Education is investing in the mental health of their students, I would like to know if the college is investing in supporting the mental health of their students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Acting Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. I think this is an area, a theme where mental health is an issue are that we want to continue to address from a whole-of-government approach.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Arctic College does provide many different student services and different types of supports for our post-secondary college student programs, whether it's tutoring or career programming, planning ahead for their careers, also looking at alumni or recruitment, how we try to further engage and get them into the schools. There's day cares and more and more. I know mental health is also an area that the Arctic College does try to work with those relevant agencies to provide services for our students and as well as staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Question 1041 – 6(2): Regulation and Taxation of Cannabis, Liquor and Vaping Products

Ms. Brewster: (interpretation) Good morning, Nunavummiut and Mr. Nattaq, please welcome to the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, they say good things come in threes, so I have a third and final set of questions for the Minister of Finance before our fall sitting ends and we get ready for the upcoming 2025 budget.

As the Minister will recall, I asked him questions during our winter sitting about the taxation of vaping products, and at that time I noted the documentation supporting the Minister's Budget Address indicated Canada Revenue Agency would begin collecting Nunavut tax on vaping products sold in the territory as of July 1, 2024, pursuant to Canada's Coordinated Vaping Taxation Framework. Can the Minister give us an indication today as to how much revenue has been raised to date from the sale of vaping products in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the taxes gained from tobacco products, in 2023-2024 we raised \$2 million in tobacco taxes. We're forecasting another in revenues of 23.7 million in 2024-2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank, you Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Nunavut's territorial *Cannabis Act* was passed in the year 2018, over half a decade ago. Section 64 of the legislation provides that:

"The Minister shall every fifth year following assent review the administration and implementation of this act and the effectiveness of the provisions of this act, particularly with respect to achieving the purposes of this act."

It's a lot of act. Mr. Speaker, it is now November 2024. Can the Minister confirm when this report will be ready for tabling in the Legislative Assembly with recommendations for potential amendments to the statute? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that tabling won't happen during this session, Mr. Speaker, and I will see if we can't have it ready for the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I might have misheard, but I think the minister just said "I'll see if I can't have it ready for the next." I think he meant to say "can have it ready."

As the Minister will recall, this Legislative Assembly passed a new *Liquor Tax Act* in the year of 2022. It received assent on November 8, almost two years ago to this day.

Mr. Speaker, when the government introduced this legislation, we were assured that the new revenues would help to fund much-needed programs and services. However, it has been two years and the necessary regulations to begin implementing the tax have not been approved and published. Can the Minister provide a clear explanation for the delay? And can he indicate when the regulations will be ready? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the act will not be ready for the duration of this government, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of issues related to why it's not; one of them is just the shortage of staff and personnel to get in and delve into the act, Mr. Speaker. That's one of the issues around that. I'm hoping that the next government will be able to bring this tax forward, or this act forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Kaernerck.

Question 1042 – 6(2): Solid Waste Management

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to welcome the people in the gallery and I think I'm getting a cold.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, thank you. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services and they concern the important issue of solid waste management. As the minister will recall his department has issued a number of requests for proposals in recent years to develop a Nunavut-wide regional solid waste management plan and a business case for a solid waste facility upgrade.

As the Minister is aware, Igloolik has been grouped into bundle 3 for the purposes of his department's capital plan. Can the Minister provide an update today to the status of the development of a Nunavut-wide solid waste management plan and a business plan for a solid-waste facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department is trying to push forward on the solid waste facilities across the territory, and within the bundles that we have identified, we are looking at doing either upgrades or some work to ensure that the solid waste facilities are optimized for their use.

I know that there was regionalization studies done to see how we can ensure that the waste, if it can be managed in a better way having one location. I understand that this has been a topic of the Association of Nunavut Municipalities that are meeting this week, and I know that the Iqaluit mayor and the president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities have visited Nuuk this summer and looked at their incineration. So these types of work are, we are taking a hard look at and we're trying to see where things can, where we can go forward on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Solid waste, sometimes there's hazardous materials that are mixed with the regular garbage and Igloolik is an island.

(interpretation ends) As the minister is aware, Igloolik Integrated Communities Sustainable Plan has identified the need for a new incinerator and a new recycling facility to help manage solid waste. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what funding is available for his department to support such pots? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Speaker, we do have different pots of federal funds that we try to address municipal infrastructure needs, and we do have the solid waste bundles that I mentioned we are trying to proceed with. And we did present them through our capital estimates for 2025-2026.

Mr. Speaker, again, we are looking at options around, whether it's incinerators or what kind of best practices are used in municipalities across the country, on making sure that we are effectively managing our waste facilities and will continue to keep my colleagues informed on our next steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Kaernek.

Mr. Kaernek (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, Igloolik is an island. There's used batteries in the garbage and at times it can be hazardous. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know about finances that are provided to support the communities and also to clean up the waste sites and dispose properly of batteries and other hazardous material. Can the minister indicate how they're working with the Department of Environment regarding hazardous waste and used batteries, used oil and

so on? What kind of a working relationship do you have with the Department of Environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member for asking his question. The Department of Environment will have a solid waste strategy. They are currently working on it and we will give them the support and also have dialogue together in regards to solid waste material and hazardous materials, like batteries and used wires and so on. They have to be properly disposed of in order to keep our environment clean. And also proper drainage included. We are working with the Department of Environment on this subject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Question 1043 – 6(2): Funding for Local Housing Organizations

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, when the premier recently visited the community of Kugaaruk in my constituency of Netsilik, we had the opportunity to meet with the local housing organization's board of directors. I was very proud to have had that opportunity to take part in the meeting. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the hard work of the board and the employees of the local housing organization.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues raised during the meeting was that the formula used by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to determine the amount of funding that local housing organizations receive for maintenance and improvement of public housing units is inadequate to meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister clearly explain how the Nunavut Housing Corporation determines the amount of funding that local housing organizations receive on an annual basis for maintenance and improvement of public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there is a formula that is used to determine what kind of housing, what kind of finances the housing for each community will receive. Mr. Speaker, in this short notice I wasn't able to pull it up, but I will definitely share it with my colleague once we do have it.

It is a bit of a complicated formula, Mr. Speaker, and it includes everything from number of housing units, the size of the community, and how many employees they have. So it is

a bit complicated. As soon as I am able to pull it up I will share it with my colleague and this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling a letter of invitation that the chairperson of the board of directors of Taloyoak's local housing organization has written to the Minister, inviting him to meet with the Board. Mr. Speaker, I know that Taloyoak's local housing organization has similar concerns regarding the amount of funding that it receives for maintenance and improvement of public housing units. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to having the Nunavut Housing Corporation review its funding formula in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the corporation is very aware of the challenges that all the housing associations have, in terms of trying to meet their budget needs with the needs of the community, in terms of aging infrastructure, and mold issues, and on and on and on, Mr. Speaker. It's always a challenge for the associations across the territory to be able to maintain the houses. And budget is one area that is always a challenge in any department, I believe, to meet those.

We are continuing to see where we could improve and have more funding in terms of supporting the community housing associations and maintaining the units.

Mr. Speaker, in saying that, I believe there should be some responsibility among some of the people, tenants, that are there to help in easing the cost of maintaining units, such as tightening doorknobs and closets and cupboard doors, and doing their little part in being able to do some minor maintenance in their unit, so that we're not sending someone in at a huge expense to go tighten doorknobs and tighten windowpanes, Mr. Speaker, I think.

But in terms of the question, yes, it is important that we take a look at our budgets and make sure that they are meeting the needs of the housing associations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada is undertaking an audit of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Public Housing Program. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the televised hearing on this report would be of great interest to all of Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if the funding formula for the local housing organizations is being looked at as part of this audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the line of questioning I'm receiving from the colleague. Mr. Speaker, some of the key issues around funding local housing associations is a model that contains inflationary factors of 3 percent. Each of the funding formulae is updated to reflect the GN salary rates and the current number of housing units per community. The amount received by the local housing organization is the funding related to those local factors, example number of units minus the rent revenue for the year of that local housing organization per rent scale, and so on, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to clarify that with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions, Member for Kugluktuk. Mr. Anavilok.

Question 1044 – 6(2): Inuinnaqtun Language

Mr. Anavilok (interpretation): My questions are for the Minister responsible for Languages and they concern the issue of the Inuinnaqtun language. Mr. Speaker, during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 10, 2023 the Minister's predecessor indicated:

"We are proposing shifting the focus of Inuinnaqtun translations to prioritize areas that are either likely to improve revitalization or directly support access to services."

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this shift would provide new resources to support access to services for those who are learning or strengthening their use of Inuinnaqtun. Can the Minister provide the House with an update on what new resources his department has created to promote the revitalization of Inuinnaqtun? (interpretation ends)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for their very good questioning.

Mr. Speaker, the member asked the shift, how it will be different, but the shift recognizes the very different realities between Inuinnaqtun and Inuktut, Inuktitut. This shift does not mean a reduction in support of or around the importance of Inuinnaqtun, it means fewer translations, technical reports and Inuinnaqtun preservations and revitalizations, learning resources. I can also note, Mr. Speaker, that with our partners from the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, they have announced a funding to assist their region and the region of Kitikmeot on the Inuit language training area. That is work that is ongoing with my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2024, the Department of Culture and Heritage issued a public service announcement calling for proposals for their grants and contributions funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the department funds a number of program areas, including projects that support the promotion, protection, preservation of Nunavut's official languages. Can the Minister clarify how many proposals that support the use of Inuinnaqtun his department received in response for this call for proposal? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question from the member. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to pull the details in my briefing note, and I can commit to getting back to the member and the House with more details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Anavilok.

Mr. Anavilok: Mr. Speaker, the department's current business plan indicates that one of its priorities for April to October 2025 is to "plan and deliver grants and contribution information session in an identified community."

Will Minister commit to plan and deliver this grants and contributions information session in Kugluktuk? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Languages, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to the member's question, as we know that Inuinnaqtun language is in a very critical stage of losing their language in a slow pace, but we want to revitalize the Kitikmeot language. I can commit to getting my department to look into providing and promote the grants and contributions sessions to Kugluktuk and Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Question 1045 – 6(2): Nunavut's Land Use Plan

Mr. Savikataaq (interpretation): (no interpretation). (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to question the Minister of Environment, and this pertains to my colleague's questioning on the Nunavut Land Use Plan. Earlier in the sitting when the Minister was

asked about an update on the signing or not signing of the Nunavut Draft Land Use Plan the Minister responded:

"The Government of Nunavut is still reviewing the recommended land use plan to ensure it aligns with its plan date, goals and objectives."

Mr. Speaker, my question is what is the government's plan date and goals and objectives to the land use plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the very good question. As the member mentioned, we are still reviewing the recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan. Mr. Speaker, the mandate goals and objectives is a large document and I can note that it's about over 1,000 pages of documents, and there are a lot of goals and objectives in that document. And I have no details in my briefing notes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the land use plan is a large document, with 1,000 pages, but what I asked the minister was the minister stated, "the Government of Nunavut is still reviewing the recommended land use plan to ensure it aligns with its plan dates", which means they have a planned date of when to sign it. Its goals. The government has a goal for what the land use plan should do for the government. And its objectives, the objectives of what the government wants, the land use plan.

I will ask the minister again: What is the plan date, the goals and the objectives? The government's plan date, the government's goal and its objectives with the land use plan? Are they going to sign it? Are there issues? If we can get a clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik

Mr. Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there has been a typo on the Blues that were provided by the issuer of those Blues.

When I was exchanging question period with the member from Baker Lake, I mentioned the Government of Nunavut is reviewing the recommended plan to ensure it aligns with its 'mandates', not 'dates', goals and objectives.

Mr. Speaker, we are, within the Nunavut Agreement, Article 11 is authority under the Nunavut Planning Commission, and we're working towards having the plan to fulfil the Nunavut Agreement with the goals and objectives that one day there will be a plan for Nunavut having goals to achieve to protect the environment, waters, and the land of the territory. And that's the goal of the Nunavut Planning Commission. And there are objectives that three parties are working towards achieving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the land use plan should be, and I would highly encourage the government to make sure that it's a balanced land use plan. Yes, we want protected areas, but we also need areas for mining, for development, for businesses like outfitting and other stuff that trade corridors for all season roads, winter roads. All that should be taken into consideration.

It has been 18 months since this land use plan was presented to the Government of Nunavut. Obviously there's huge issues, if they can't make up their mind in roughly a year and a half, but I will go on.

This is another, on the Blues, there when the Minister stated that when asked about part of the updates here, and I'll quote the Minister again:

"At this time, it's hard to justify when the plan will be approved or rejected, just based on the recent announcement of Minister Van Dal seeking not to re-elect. But I'm sure whoever replaces him will be in a position to have plan, either reject or approved."

So my question is it appears with that statement that the government has no intentions of signing this document before the next federal election, which is October 2025. Is that a correct statement? The Minister stated that Minister Van Dal's replacement will be in a position to reject or approve the land use plan. Is that statement stating that this plan will not be signed by the parties until then? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, there are three parties to this draft land use plan, Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan. I cannot speak for each party, but as the Government of Nunavut, we are reviewing the plan interdepartmentally, meaning that every department with the Government of Nunavut is reviewing the plan.

In terms of my statements around the federal minister, Mr. Van Dal, I made a statement that it's going to be difficult for the next, in my personal position, that I thought it would be difficult for the federal government, but it won't be, the plan will continue to be reviewed by three parties, and we're hoping to see whether it will be rejected or approved

at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker. When that day comes, the three parties will make an announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Sammurtok.

Question 1046 – 6(2): Property Taxes

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Finance. As the minister will recall, we recently approved the 2024 *Mill Rate Establishment Order* under the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. This order was recently published in the September edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Mr. Speaker, if my math is correct, the 2024 property tax rate for residential properties in the Nunavut communities outside of Iqaluit has decreased from 6.15 mills to 5.59 mills. This is a decrease of approximately 9 percent from the 2023 rate. This decrease follows several conclusive years of increases, so it is nice to see that private homeowners in communities like Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet are getting a little break.

Can the Minister indicate how the amount of the recent decreases was determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the decrease in the tax rate, it follows after there was a standardization of property tax rates so that they can be more standard in the coming years. The finance people reviewed it and thought that if they decreased it by that much, then people in Nunavut will have the same tax rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The recent mill rate establishment orders indicate that the property tax rate for mining properties has increased from 13.52 mills to 14.87 mills. It is an increase of approximately 10 percent. Can the Minister indicate how the amount of the recent increase was determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the increases and the decreases in the tax rates are always reviewed to make sure that we're

not lagging behind or they're being too expensive. There are different ways to look at it, in terms of mines and private homes. After they are reviewed, we want to make sure that, if there is a need for an increase or a need for a decrease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

Mr. Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate the overall impact that the recent property tax rate changes will have now on the government's revenue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tax rates, if they are increased or decreased as they are being done, we look at the tax revenue in 2024. They were around \$6 million. We wanted to make sure that the tax rates don't change too drastically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Question 1047 – 6(2): IT System Transfer from QEC to CGIS

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the notice of you earlier not to recognize me too early. I had to have a little shift in my plan today. I originally planned to ask a question to the Minister of Health, but there is no acting minister that was named. Then I was going to ask a question on Qulliq Energy Corporation, so but if there is a partner department of Community and Government Services with the Qulliq Energy Corporation, question that I would like to follow-up on.

Mr. Speaker, it was announced in June of 2023 that the transition of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's IT system would be transitioned to the Government of Nunavut. Is the transition complete? As well as there was an investigation occurring around the time that there was a breach in the data of Qulliq Energy Corporation. Was there any additional cyber safety issues identified during that investigation? Thank you.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did provide that notice to the House on our fellow colleague being absent from the House, and I apologize if -- I did try to provide members with that notice ahead of time.

Mr. Speaker, as for the question, the transition, the migration of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's system, information management and information technology to the Government of Nunavut Corp. is this network was complete this past June 2024.

As for the second part of his question, I'm not aware of new additional risk issues around the cyber attack the corporation, the utility experienced. And if that's something, if I hear of anything further, I'll be sure to inform our colleagues about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to belabour the point. The notice was made, and I do appreciate that, but unfortunately there wasn't an acting minister named, to my recollection, in there.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is Qulliq Energy Corporation had put in a response to my question on this topic to the Minister of Qulliq Energy Corporation earlier this year. The Minister in one of his responses said that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had put a submission into the Financial Management Board to support the terms of trying to make the transition over to the Government of Nunavut with their IT system.

In that response he said that to date approximately half of the approved submission had been spent in terms of the work on the rebuild. What was the full amount of that submission to the Financial Management Board, and was the full amount supported? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the notes in front of me as to the details, but maybe I'll have to take that as a notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question taken as notice. Oral questions. Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Question 1048 – 6(2): Water Infrastructure

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the issue of water infrastructure. As the Minister is aware, Igloolik has experienced a number of boil water advisories in recent years. This is a concern to the community. Safe drinking water is a human right.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased that the department issued a request for proposals in July of this year, to develop a business case for new water treatment infrastructure for Igloolik. The department awarded a contract for this work in September of this year. Can the Minister indicate how much has been budgeted for this work. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to find the right briefing note on this. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of water infrastructure projects that we have on the go, and the planning that was identified for Igloolik as well, I'll have to perhaps come back to my colleague with the details, but I do know that there has been work towards this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look forward to that. (interpretation ends) Can the Minister indicate when he expects the budget for designing and constructing a new water treatment plant for Igloolik will be added to his department's five-year capital plan. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. Again, I did find the hopefully a little bit more detail on the water treatment plant's planning phase for Igloolik, Coral Harbour, and Clyde River. There has been \$2 million approved for this, both vote 2 and vote 4 funds.

In terms of where we go next with those three communities, once the planning has completed, and we'll try to look forward on the next phase around to get design and construction. So I can't definitively say what years, what day, but we are planning for that. Those details will come out through the planning phase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Minister. Could the Minister indicate when that will proceed? Can the Minister provide a timeline for when Igloolik's new water treatment plant will be operational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my colleague's information, the size and the design of the new water treatment plant, some take longer than others, but one of our priorities is Arctic Bay, Sanikiluaq, Resolute Bay and Pond Inlet, that will be placed as a priority. And while we're going to be doing the designing and construction phase, we will be working on those. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Malliki.

Question 1049 – 6(2): FANS Program

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, and my constituents. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education regarding the FANS. There was going to be an adjustment made to the FANS dollars and also to accelerate the time that the students receive those monies. I would like to know where it is at this time.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you to the member, and thank you for the question. So with the FANS comprehensive review, we are including a business case and a legislative review of that business case, and we look forward to bringing those changes forward as we progress in developing those options for consideration and implementation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be very interesting to see the changes. As members of the Legislative Assembly, we do get a lot of complaints about the delay in receiving the money, and that they do get hungry, their rent gets behind, and it creates a lot of problems for the students who are attending college. Is it possible to make sure that they get paid on time, because that's their only source of income while they're students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. I wholeheartedly understand where the member is coming from, and that is our aim, to improve the quality and timeline for FANS with the new rollout of the FANS updates that are going to be happening, including the implementation of the new database which we're really excited about. That will really help us streamline our information.

The process going forward will hopefully be smoother and more time efficient for students and the staff to work with the FANS recipients to get their information together and have it not in archaic database anymore, but a current one that has more efficiency and effectiveness. We look forward to that coming out in the 2025-2026 year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister. So from what I understand, there's going to be no changes until 2025-2026?

And from now until 2025-2026, (interpretation ends) what is the short-term solution?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. We are working on implementation of interim measures for the FANS program. Some of those changes and implementation things that we have included and are implemented, a new wellness benefit for full-time Inuit students. For eligible students, they were to receive 500 per semester starting last fall of 2023. We've also launched a new FANS student handbook, a FANS student enrolment process for NAC students, as well increasing public communication about FANS. And we've done and hired seven additional casual staff.

So those are just some interim measures that we've done over the past while we have been working on the comprehensive review, and are working to implement the reviewed recommendations coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 1050 – 6(2): Beyond Meadowbank

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for recognizing me once again. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Wildlife, or Environment. As I indicated earlier, Meadowbank is going to be closing down in 2028, and that's very close. I would like to know what plans your department has regarding the upcoming closure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Mr. Speaker, the reclamation activities and financial securities for mine closure for the Meadowbank Mine must comply with federal mine site reclamation policy, their requirements and guidelines.

The closure activities at Meadowbank will follow the interim closure and reclamation plans developed by the proponent when they were seeking regulatory approval for their project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Minister. So do I understand that your staff will be coming over to Baker Lake in regards

to regulatory requirements, because we must be disturbing the environment around that area. Are you going to be coming to Baker Lake any time soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, member, for that question. The Government of Nunavut along with the Agnico-Eagle Mine and the federal government, we are working together on the reclamation, the closure for the Agnico-Eagle Mine.

Mr. Speaker, on a different note, in July 2024 various Government of Nunavut departments met with Agnico-Eagle Mine to discuss a potential interest in repurposing assets from the Meadowbank gold mine following its expected closure in 2026.

I'm unable to note whether my department went to Meadowbank, but we're working, once the mine closes, we'll work with the regulatory processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Second and final supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister. Have you had meetings with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization? Or have you had meetings with the elders council called Pilautiit (ph), have you had dialogue with different organizations in our community regarding the upcoming closure of the mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member for his question. The communities of Baker Lake and the hunters and trappers organizations have been working together regarding anything that affects their community. It's only through working together that we come to a conclusion. Using Agnico-Eagle as an example, usually they have dialogue with the local communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I have no more names. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Responses to Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 341 – 6(2): 2023-2024 Northern Employees Benefits Services Annual Report**

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the 2023-2024 Northern Employees Benefits Services Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Tabled Document 342 – 6(2): Correspondence from Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Taloyoak Housing Authority**Tabled Document 343 – 6(2): Correspondence from Minister of Economic Development and Transportation Concerning Airport Weather Observer Operations**

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table today. The first document is correspondence from the chairperson of the board of directors of the Taloyoak Housing Authority inviting the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to visit the community and meet with the Board.

Mr. Speaker, the second document is correspondence for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation in response to the letter that I recently tabled from the Municipality of Kugaaruk concerning airport weather observer operations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to review the documents with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 344 – 6(2): Legislative Assembly's 2025 Sitting Calendar**Tabled Document 345 – 6(2): List of Outstanding Statutory Tabling Requirements**

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Thank you. I have two documents to table today.

The first document is the Legislative Assembly's 2025 sitting calendar.

The second document is a list of outstanding statutory tabling requirements. Thank you.

Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. I recognize member for Iqaluit. Item 14, Notices of Motions. I recognize member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 43 – 6(2): Appointment of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Stephen Innuksuk be appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly effective January 1, 2025.

>>*Applause*

Ms. Brewster: Happy International Inuit Day indeed. At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 43 – 6(2): Appointment of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with her motion today. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: There is agreement. Proceed, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Section 50 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly shall be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Management and Services Board approved by motion of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the present incumbent will be retiring as of December 31, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the present incumbent has been in public service for over half a century;

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

AND WHEREAS members of the Legislative Assembly pay tribute to the present incumbent's decades of dedication to the North;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board has undertaken a merit-based selection process for this position;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

FINALLY, NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Stephen Innuksuk be appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly effective January 1, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Congratulations, Mr. Innuksuk. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63 and 65 with Mr. Hickes in the chair.

In accordance with authority provided to me by motion 37 – 6(2), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed we'll take a lunch break come back at 1:30. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:38 and Committee resumed at 13:32*

Chairman (Hickes): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Before I go to our order of business I understand, Ms. Brewster, you have a comment you'd like to make. Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: I do, thank you, Chair. I would just like to take a moment to acknowledge some guests that I have in the House today. I would like to introduce to you Senator P.J. Prosper.

>> *Applause*

He is a Mi'kmaw senator from Nova Scotia who is here in Iqaluit to meet with members of our city council, and in the absence of a current sitting senator for Nunavut he has very graciously been taking on some advocacy for Nunavummiut. Welcome to our House.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: And next to Senator Prosper is somebody that many people might recognize, Claudine Santos. She is the Director of Parliamentary Affairs to Senator Prosper and served Nunavummiut for 11 years working with Senator Patterson. Welcome to our House, Ms. Santos.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Brewster: And Jennifer Copage is the Executive Assistant to Senator Prosper. I would like to welcome you to our House and to our territory. Welcome, all of you. Thanks for being here. Thank you, Chair.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: I'd like to thank you all for your service and welcome to the Chamber.

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal With: Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63 and 65. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the Minister of Finance review of the supplementary Bills 53, 54 and 55 along with the supporting document, followed by Bill 56, 65. Next will be the Minister of Community and Government Services for Bill 52 and 58, followed by Minister of Justice Bill 51. Lastly with the Speaker Bill 62 and 63. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement we first deal with Bill 53?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak, do you have officials you would like to appear before the committee with you?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to have officials appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in.

Thank you. When your officials get settled, Minister Kusugak, if you can start with your opening comments and introduce your officials. Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you for your patience, colleagues, and Mr. Chairman.

To my right is Daniel Young, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Megan Hunt Deputy Minister of Health, to start with me in committee of the whole today, Mr. Chairman. There might be a point where I might need to replace my witnesses, and I'll look to you for that advice when I do.

I appear before you today to present Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*. Through this bill the government is seeking to increase its overall operations and maintenance appropriation by 75.115 million for two departments, the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services.

This bill is intended to cover extra O&M costs that were used to deliver programs in the two departments in 2022 and 2023. The costs include year-end adjustments for various programs within the two departments.

The Department of Health is seeking \$58.085 million for program delivery in 2023-2024. The funding is necessary in key health program areas, including critical health staffing measures, physician services contracts, out-of-territory hospitals and physicians services.

The Department of Family Services is seeking \$17.030 million to cover cost overruns and various Family Services programs and compensation and benefits.

Mr. Chairman, this supplementary funding is necessary to address various cost overruns in the two effected departments in 2023-2024, after year-end adjustments. The affected departments receive base target increases in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Therefore, we are expecting them to make good efforts in reprofiling their existing funds to address their needs in the 2024-2025 and ongoing.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before would he proceed do any members have any general comments they would like to provide? Seeing none, we will proceed directly to the bill.

Starting on page 4 we've got *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 3, 2023-2024*, Department of Health. Amount being requested \$58,085,000. Any questions? Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the department for putting together the detailed rationale in the briefing materials as provided. This substantial ask of 58 million isn't necessarily a record-breaker for the Department of Health, but it is still quite substantial, nonetheless.

I would like to start my questions with regards to the information provided on page 1 of 6 on Health's briefing note. I do like to note that the information provided in the table is excellent. It's great to see the breakdown of all the costs, additional costs, but I would also like to note that I appreciate that you did include the surplus and compensation of benefits that helped to offset the cost overruns. That's something that I think is important to see in every supplementary appropriation request. So I'm glad that it is incorporated.

At our last supplementary appropriation with the Department of Health one of the measures to address the health care professionals shortages is reliance on agency nurses and paramedics. One concern that I would like to flag is that the cost savings in compensation of benefits of 19 million is drastically offset by the additional expenditures in agency nurses of 27 million and paramedic services of 25 million.

I don't argue the necessity of these agency nurses and temporary paramedic contractors; I just understand the short-term necessity for these to help keep our health centres operating. But last year I did raise concern over the long-term and medium-term implications of relying on these short-term measures, and at that time recommended the Department of Health consider some alternatives.

So I would just like to ask, since the Department of Health had come forward with the last appropriation, has there been any progress made on some more medium- to long-term solutions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this is one of the areas, I think, in terms of all the other challenges in health care is the recruitment and retention of nurses to the point that there comes times throughout the year where some communities are at the risk of having no care in their communities, if it were not for the agency nurses contracts and paramedic services.

This is one thing that has been growing in our territory over the years. I believe that it became even more visible when COVID hit our country. Since then I believe all our country and many others have been challenged to try and recruit and retain nurses.

With our isolation up here, the days of coming up to the north and Nunavut and being in an isolated community and the attractions have since left, and it's one that Health is constantly struggling with. To give a bit more detail in terms of where they're going with it from here, I would ask through you, Mr. Chairman, if my deputy could elaborate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the member for their question. I really appreciate your comment about ensuring the operations of health centres and our hospital. We have put a number of mitigation measures in place, and a few key strategies that have been implemented over this last year that I know that folks around this table are familiar with.

So the implementation of job shares. We've seen improvements in being able to recruit nurses who were in casual positions and other indeterminant positions into the job share roles. Incentives that were through the critical workforce package, that also included all group 5 members.

We've also done a number of other things to mitigate some of these cost drivers. So the utilization of the medic Nunavut paramedics, minimizing the disruption of health services protocol, so distributing existing resources that we have in the territory where we may need to use them in areas that have high priority needs or significantly reduced services, so being able to adjust and move roles to address those issues.

Where feasible, we are deferring some of the indeterminant vacation, really being very cognizant to make sure people are taking their time off, so utilizing that lever much less.

Offering short and agency nurse and casual nurse contracts to increase uptake. Deploying the virtual nurse practitioner program as well as the virtual public health nurses. Having physicians provide virtual services to the communities and leveraging some of our out-of-territory and specialized virtual services.

Some of you may be aware of the recruitment campaign that took place during this session, so having virtual recruitment campaigns, really looking for talent here in Nunavut and talent across Canada. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hunt.

So last year I did raise concern when the paramedic services had an estimated cost of \$16 million, and last year I had put forward a recommendation for consideration to create a

sort of central mobile paramedic team in-house, at presumably a fraction of the cost of a contracted position or team. And I just want to keep that recommendation out there.

I know that there's the national nursing shortage, and I think that paramedics are a valuable asset for us in Nunavut to fall back on, and I strongly believe there are many Nunavummiut that are capable of completing the paramedic programs that are available in colleges that range from one to three years in length.

But for my last question as the health care professionals shortage is a national matter, just out of curiosity, have other jurisdictions looked into or actually begun creating their own internal travelling teams to offset reliance on agencies? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: As that question is still directly related to your previous one, I'll go directly to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the member for their question. Mobile travelling teams are models of that. There are many demonstrated models across Canada and international. There are areas that we are paying attention to. There is also a lot of work being done by Quebec around bringing agency nursing right into their health authority structure. So those are areas that we're paying close attention to and looking at lessons learned and potential opportunities to learn from that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, for the benefit of the viewing audience, this is a supp bill 58.1 million for Health, and then for the benefit of the viewing audience, if we can let the audience know what the main estimate was for the total before this supp bill. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Just bear with us as we find that number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would have been \$520 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In doing my basic math, it's about 10 percent over cost then? 10, 11 percent; correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Basic math, that's correct, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want the viewing audience, they don't have what we have in front of us and people do watch these on TV or listen to it on the radio and they should know what kind of percentage-wise it's overrun.

The one question I have is, it's directly related to the supp bill, agency nurses, but I just want to get the thinking on agency nurses, because I've heard that, through my constituents, agency nurses, we need them but there is quite a difference between an indeterminant nurse in terms of pay and benefits compared to agency nurse. My understanding is that agency nurses don't pay rent and they're paid better than indeterminant nurses, which makes it harder to recruit for indeterminant nurses. I would just like to get a position on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the arrangement between Health and the agency nursing agent is that it's between the agency nursing and those benefits and/or costs don't necessary go to the nurse that is there, Mr. Chairman, and maybe through you I could have my deputy of Health give further details on that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Iksivautaq, and thank you to the member for the question. When it comes to the compensation for agency nurses versus indeterminant nurses, there is not a significant variability. The increase cost to those roles really is one that is of administration and payment to the agency itself. The agencies do cover a cost for the accommodations for those nurses that are coming from agency. Thank you, Iksivautaq.

Chairman: Before I go back to Mr. Savikataaq I would like to revisit the Minister's responsible on Health's main estimates. In the documentation that I have the original main estimates was just under 470 million, and with the revised estimate, adding the 9.9 million for health compensation and benefits, it brings it to 479.5 million. The Minister stated that the main estimates were 520 million, so I would like to get a clarification from the minister. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was provided the information for this year and not previous year. You are correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. So for the record, the revised estimates for Department of Health for 2023-2024 is \$479.5 million. Mr. Savikataaq, next question.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you for that Mr. Chairman. It probably brings it up to about 13 percent cost overruns is my basic math.

Going back to the deputy minister just stated that the actual compensation between the agency nurse and an indeterminant nurse are very close to the same. Is that before or after rent? Because an agency nurse does not pay rent, and the determinant nurse does if they are in staff housing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Still on the same line of question. I'll go directly to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Iksivautaq, and thank you to the member for the question. Yes, you're correct.

Chairman: Thank you. If you just close out your comment and acknowledge the Chair at the end of it. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. The answer was straightforward, yes, but if you calculate the rent, is the compensation still comparable or is it agency nurse better off than an indeterminant in terms of compensation? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I'll go right back to Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Iksivautaq, and thank you for the question. Yes, it could definitely be seen as being an arrangement that nurses may prefer. I think there's other factors that aren't just included in compensation and benefits. There are things that agency nurses are able to do that indeterminant staff are not; things that are part of areas that Health are looking into, including the travelling in and out of community, and those costs being covered through that process. Thank you, Iksivautaq.

Chairman: Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been in the news recently about Northwest Territories Department of Health is doing all they can to get away from agency nurses. If you need nurses and you're short-staffed, that's understandable, but the cost difference between an indeterminant nurse and agency nurse, the cost that the Department of Health pays is quite an extreme difference. I would like to know what Health's plan is to wean itself off agency nurses. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could through you have my deputy respond to that Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Hunt.

Ms. Hunt: Thank you, Iksivautaq, and thank you very much for the question from the member. I'll just if you will allow, Chair, go back to a little bit around the compensation and benefits for indeterminant nurses.

One of the things that agency nurses do not receive from us are the bonuses or some of the other compensation around dental and those benefits. So I just want to make sure that we identify that piece.

You know, ultimately our goal is to keep health centres and the hospital operating so that services can be delivered in a timely and appropriate, high-quality way. We know that nationally, as the member identified, that there is a nursing shortage, that there is a lot of different types of recruitment happening, hence why the department did the critical package, also provides bursaries as doing the kind of innovative recruitment campaigns, and also making sure that we're leveraging different opportunities, whether that's through nursing agencies or paramedics so that we can make sure that the health centres are open.

We continue to look at what's happening nationally in other provinces and territories so that we can identify different approaches, the right approaches for Nunavut. And we are looking at what some of those internal health authority nursing agency structures look like, and we are hopeful that that will help us address some of those nursing shortages and reduce some of those costs. But we know right now that we have to make sure that while we're doing that, and while other provinces and territories are as well, that we have the best care possible open to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Iksivautaq.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Health has to put a supp bill because the money was spent to provide for Nunavummiut when there's nursing shortage. I just want to go back to the comment about I believe there's quite a discrepancy in compensation between indeterminant nurse and agency nurses and the deputy said, well, they get dental care and health care that agency nurses don't get. If you don't pay rent and if you get per diems every day, that will do a lot of dental work if it's the \$182 a day. They get it, if they get it. And no rent which could be pretty close to 1,700 a month, that will do a lot of dental work. That's just a comment.

I don't see an issue with this supp bill. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list. I'll just make a comment before we close out this page. I would like to recommend that the department really take a look at their budgetary process. There have been a couple of budget lines here that are three times the budget that was estimated, one six times the budget estimated. These are double digit, tens of millions of dollars. In fact, in the last three years, it's close to \$200 million now in supplemental appropriations from the Department of Health, so I would like to really encourage the department to really take a look at their budgets processes

and how they establish the appropriate budgets so when we do these things we can approve an appropriate budgetary amount for the department to meet the real need. I would like to make that comment to the department.

Again, so we're on page 4. Department of Health. \$58,085,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 5 in the binder. Department of Family Services Operations and Maintenance No. 3, 2023-2024. We will go to the first line. Family wellness, item 1. \$14,347,000. Any questions? Seeing none. Family wellness \$14,347,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Income assistance, \$1,221,000. Any questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you. The \$1,221,000 figure, what is that request for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I will need to change my witnesses, if I have the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, through you to change my witnesses. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the minister to change the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed. Just for the record Minister, if you could introduce your new official.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Jonathan Ellsworth, Deputy Minister of Family Services, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Now, Minister, did you want Mr. Ellsworth to answer the question that was posed?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I would like the deputy minister, yes, to respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Good afternoon. I would ask that the member repeat the question. I was struggling with my translation device at the time that it was posed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: The member was asking for the source of the shortfall. Thank you, Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to income assistance, Mr. Chair, there was a shortfall. We expect that the shortfall arose from a few factors, one of which is that we saw a reduction in the client base during fiscal periods 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. This reduction, we believe, was a result of the payments being issued by the Canadian government with respect to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

In addition to that reality, we saw in 2023-2024 we know that there was an approval with respect to the amount of income assistance being provided. Generally speaking there was a 34 percent increase, Mr. Chair. And during the most recent 2022-2023, 2023-2024, that increase we were instructed to fund from within.

Since then, Mr. Chair, we've seen an increase with the number of clients that we're serving from approximately 3,000 heads of household to 4,200, which is the largest contributing factor to the cost overrun with respect to income assistance, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for your response. In the future with regards to operations that when we get into the operations will there be more requests for appropriations? That's my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could like to continue with that line of questioning to Mr. Ellsworth through you, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Ellsworth.

Mr. Ellsworth: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There wasn't an allocation to the department in the 2024-2025 O&M. We don't anticipate any further requests for additional allocations in income assistance, Mr. Chair. However, we do recognize that this service is, to some extent like health care, in the sense that we can never anticipate how many folks will be requiring it, and so in the event that we do see a trend towards an increase in the number

of subscribers to the income assistance program, we will certainly bring it forward for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to make sure our estimates are fairly accurate. And when you turn 18 you're able to get income assistance and some get into employment, and get out of employment. Sometimes you don't know what's actually happening. And this scenario for consideration. Just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any other names on my list. I would like to finish off with a comment just with the documentation on the briefing note material. For future appearances I think it would be more helpful to the committee if it was broken down by, like it is in the Bill. When we talk about family wellness and income assistance, career development, poverty reduction, corporate management, it's not laid out in that format within the MLA briefing note. I think it will help alleviate a lot of these questions if we have the information readily at our fingertips.

I will go again. Income assistance, amount being requested \$1,221,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I will go to career development. Total career development being requested, \$17,000. Any questions? Seeing none, career development. Total career development, \$17,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to the next line, poverty reduction. Total poverty being requested, \$105,000. Any questions? Seeing none, total poverty reduction, \$105,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to the next one, corporate management. Total corporate management amount being requested, \$1,340,000. Any questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is this for, specifically? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that broken down in terms of exactly what within corporate branch that \$1,340,000 is for, as I understand it from the deputy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That doesn't seem right. (interpretation) I think with a big request like this, we need something explaining that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is being spent in different areas of, they put it all under one department, under corporate management, but it covers compensation and benefits, grants and contributions, and other benefits, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you for clarifying that. Any other questions? Corporate management. Total corporate management being requested \$1,340,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to the bottom of the page, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance), No. 3, 2023-2024*, total department 17,030,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to Bill 53 in your legislation binder. *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*. Clause 1, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, please go to schedule on page 2. Supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, vote 1, operations and maintenance. Total supplementary appropriation, \$75,115,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 53 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: And do members agree to put Bill 53 on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, any closing comments?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the witnesses that are appearing before us and my colleague for dealing with that bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, please stay in your seats. We will go to the next bill right away. Minister, you can excuse your witnesses.

Minister, do you have any officials you would like to add to your witness table?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I have whole bench of witnesses. I would like to introduce a new witness, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the minister to exchange witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With us today I still have Mr. Daniel Young my Deputy Minister of Finance, to my right, but to my left Mr. Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'll continue.

I appear before you today to present Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*. Through this Bill we are seeking \$46.566 million in supplementary capital appropriations for 2024-2025. This supplementary appropriation is for adjustment to the approved capital carryovers from 2023-2024, to 2024-2025 fiscal year, and three other capital projects.

In February 2024 the Assembly approved Bill 40, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025*, which was mostly for the capital carryover from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025. The early approval of the capital carryover was necessary to avoid disruption in ongoing projects which rely on carry overs to continue their process, or progress.

Mr. Chairman, it is necessary to note that the Assembly has already approved these carryover projects through previous capital plans. Therefore, I want to emphasize that we are not seeking new money for the affected projects; instead we are simply requesting approval to adjust some of the carryover amounts to reflect the available funds in the financial system.

The approval of the initial carryover was based on projections. Since then, invoices have been paid and completed projects reports, included year-end adjustments, have been completed. Analysis of the GN financial system shows that some projects require adjustments to the amount previously approved for carryover.

If the Assembly does not approve these appropriations, there would not be enough funds to complete the affected projects; therefore, the GN would either cancel the project or defer working on them until appropriations are again available. Therefore, this would be a major challenge and a risk we should not take.

The committee should note that since most of our projects are multi-year projects, we should always expect some level of carryover for these projects, especially given our northern environment with limited construction season.

In addition to carryovers, the Department of Education is seeking funding for three projects that are included in this supplementary funding request:

1. 5.5 million is required for the repairs of the Rankin Inlet Simon Alaittuq school roof damage project. The roof over the gym at the Simon Alaittuq school in Rankin Inlet sustained damage during the November 2023 blizzard, resulting in

more than one-third of the gym roof being blown off by strong winds. Additionally, two thermosiphon radiators at the school were bent to the ground by falling debris.

2. 1.5 million to update the cash flow for the Taloyoak high school by transferring \$4 million from 2025-2026 and 7.5 million from 2026-2027 to 2024-2025. This is not a request for additional funding but to adjust the cash flow as the project would be moving faster than we had anticipated.
3. Mr. Chairman, 1.595 million for several fire suppression systems in Paatsaali high school and Nuiyak school, both in Sanikiluaq. Sivuniit school in Igloolik, Sam Pudlat School in Kinngait and Ulaajuk Elementary School in Pond Inlet.

The total capital supplementary requests are broken down as follows:

1. 23.01 million to the Department of Education, of which 18.6 million is for new funding, and 4.415 million to the adjustment of the capital carryover of 14 projects;
2. 12.65 million to the Department of Community and Government Services for carryover adjustments relating to 19 projects, including Sanikiluaq hamlet office, Arviat bulk fuel capacity upgrade, tenant improvement funds, and others.
3. 6.43 million to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to continue 12 projects, including the local air side resurface, air terminal buildings in Kugluktuk, Kimmirut, Rankin Inlet and others, and transportation equipment and facilities.
4. 2.064 million to the Department of Finance, of which 2.592 million is for the enterprise resource planning system, and a reduction of 524,000 to Nunavut Arctic College capital through the Department of Finance for six projects including IT infrastructure and Chesterfield Inlet community learning centre repairs.

The amounts originally carried over for NAC projects were higher than the available funds in the financial system, hence the need to adjust the budgets.

A reduction of 1 million for the Department of Family Services for its not-for-profit capital fund. The amount was expensed in 2023-2024; therefore carryover amount was not required.

3.656 million to the Department of Health for the Nunavut long term care project, phase 1, Rankin Inlet, Qikiqtani General Hospital air handling unit, control upgrade, Nunavut long term care project phase 2 in Cambridge Bay, and Nunavut long term care project phase 3, in Iqaluit, and generator repairs at community health centres. And a

reduction of \$250,000 for the Department of Culture and Heritage for carpet replacement in Kugluktuk. The amount carried over was greater than the available funds remaining in the system.

Mr. Chairman, I am available to address questions about the supplementary appropriation, or our capital process generally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak. Any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, please turn to page 4 of the bill. Department of Finance, amount not previously authorized, \$2,640,000. Questions? Seeing none, I would just like to make a comment.

When we look at the long term care facilities, there has been a lot of talk around the territory on why we're approving larger-scale elder care facilities and not going community by community. We recently all received packages from an organization that was pushing us to push the government into going back to what was requested in the last Assembly, of having lower care elder facilities in every community.

I would like to get the Minister's position on why we're continuing to go forward with these larger scale long term care facilities. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're just going along with the plan that was before us. We're following our mandate that was put out during the start of this Assembly and we're carrying forward with that process, Mr. Chairman. But there are discussions in many rooms, I'm sure, about the different kinds of care that elders in our communities require, but as of now, we are continuing down the path that we did through the mandate that this House supported. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*, Department of Finance not previously authorized. \$2,064,000, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 5. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*, Culture and Heritage. Amount not previously authorized, negative \$250,000. Any questions? Department of Culture and Heritage not previously authorized, negative \$250,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please turn to page 6. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*. Department of Education. Amount not previously authorized, \$4,415,000. Any questions? Seeing none, Department of Education not previously authorized, \$4,415,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: My apologies. I stand corrected by the Clerk here or upcoming Clerk. That was page 1, that was item number 1. So we have agreed to move pass that. We'll go to the next item, number 2. Sorry, there were scribbles. I needed to discern what they meant. Amount being requested \$5,500,000. Any questions?

Supplementary Appropriation (Capital), No. 3, Corporate Services. Amount \$5.5 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to item 3. Department of Education. Amount being requested, \$11,500,000. Any questions? Department of Education, amount being requested \$11,500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to item 4. Amount being requested, \$1,595,000. Any questions. Seeing none, item 4. \$1,595,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to the bottom of page 7. Total department amount being requested \$23,010,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 8. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*. Department of Health. Amount not previously authorized \$3,656,000. Any questions? Seeing none, Department of Health. Amount not previously authorized, \$3,656,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 9. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*. Community and Government Services. Amount not previously authorized \$12,652,000. Any questions? Seeing none, Community and Government Services not previously authorized, \$12,652,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 10. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025*. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Amount not previously authorized, \$6,434,000. Any questions? Seeing none, Economic Development and Transportation not previously authorized, \$6,434,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please go to page 11. *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) No. 3, 2024-2025* Department of Family Services. Amount not previously authorized, negative \$1 million. Any questions. Seeing none, Department of Family Services, amount not previously authorized, negative \$1 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to Bill 54 in your legislative binder. Thank you. I just clarified something with the law clerk. Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, please go to the schedule on page 2. Supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Vote 2, capital. Total supplementary appropriation \$46,566,000, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 54 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to put Bill 54 on the *Orders of the Day* for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Any closing comments, Minister?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Seeley for answering all the tough questions on the previous bill.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, colleagues, for this. Let's carry on to the next one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Your witnesses may be excused. Members, please remain in your seats. We'll go to the next bill in a moment.

Thank you. Minister, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would, with your approval, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to allow the Minister's officials to appear with him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed. Minister, if you could introduce your official for the record and please proceed to your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to reintroduce Megan Hunt, Deputy Minister of Health to my left, and Daniel Young is still here, Deputy Minister of Finance, to my right.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 55, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025. Through this Bill the government is seeking to increase its overall appropriation by \$17.116 for the Department of Health.

This bill is intended to cover extra operations and maintenance funding required by the Department of Health to enter a five-year negotiated contract with Embassy West Living to provide out-of-territory long-term care treatment in Ottawa.

Embassy West Living have been providing services for Nunavummiut in Ottawa since May 2015 and has demonstrated the ability to provide quality and culturally appropriate long term care services. This increases Health's 2024-2025 O&M budget to \$527.408 million.

Mr. Chairman, for the time being, this is the only 2024-2025 O&M supplementary funding we have for this fiscal year. Departments are making good efforts in re-profiling their existing funds to address their needs.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry Mr. Chairman -- thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to correct the 527 to 537 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry, can you clarify that, Minister?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I sure can, Mr. Chairman. This funding increases Health's 2024-2025 operations and maintenance budget to 537.408 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that clarification, Minister. Before us we have Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2024-2025*, Department of Health. Not previously authorized \$17,116,000. Any questions? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are not directly related to the bill, and you can rule me out of order if it is, but I'm curious. When the long term care centre is open in Rankin are there any anticipations of how many elders that are at Embassy West will be transferring over to the Rankin Inlet long term care? Thank you.

Chairman: I'm not going to allow that question. It's a different project. Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Any other questions? Seeing none, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 1, 2024-2025*. Department of Health. Amount previously not authorized, \$17,116,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please go to Bill 55 in your legislative binder. Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, please go to schedule on page 2. Supplementary amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. Vote 1, operations and maintenance total supplementary appropriation, \$17,116,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I was reminded by the law clerk that although we agreed to the schedule on page 2, we still need to agree with clause 3. Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 55 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 55 on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, closing comments, please.

Hon. David Akeegok: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Those are my closing comments, thank you very much.

Chairman: Before we go to the next bill we'll take a ten-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 14:34 and resumed at 14:47

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order.

Just before I go to the Minister, I would like to take a moment to welcome the translator-interpreter class from Nunavut Arctic College here. I really encourage you all to continue with your studies. We rely very heavily upon our interpreters in the booth that you see across from me, and I hope to see some of you in those booths some day.

>>Applause

Minister Kusugak, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee? Minister?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee allow to have the minister's officials join him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms please. Then, Minister, when your witness gets settled, you can introduce him and proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is still Daniel Young, Deputy Minister of Finance, and to my left is Abraham Suleiman, Comptroller General for Finance.

Mr. Chairman, I'm here to present Bill 56, Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2023-2024. Bill 56 requests the write-off and write-down of certain government assets as follows:

1. \$221,550 for the write-off of 11 public housing units in six communities that were destroyed by fire or damaged beyond economic repair. These units have been demolished.
2. \$779,965 for a write-down of 102 housing units in various communities that were damaged by mold, and will require extensive repairs.

3. \$4,340 for the write-down of three housing units in various communities that were damaged by fire and will require repairs.
4. \$1,153,914 for the write-off of Nunavut Housing Corporation's accounts receivable from deceased mortgage holders and former tenants which have become uncollectible.
5. \$1,165,568 for a write-off of statute-barred current and former NHC tenants accounts receivable.
6. \$386,475 for the evaporation and shrinkage of petroleum products within the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services.
7. \$224,304 for the write-off of the Government of Nunavut's accounts receivable from Piruqsaijiit Group of Companies which have been deemed as uncollectible.
8. And \$282,522 for the write-off of Sanikiluaq's old health centre and nurse residences in Sanikiluaq that was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I will be pleased to take questions from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Before I go to the first name on my list I would like to apologize to the class. I was just informed it was Inuit Studies program. My apologies. Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 56, *Write-off Of Assets and Debts Act, 2023-2024*.

The Standing Committee recognizes the overall purpose of the Bill which the Minister described in his opening comments. I anticipate that members may raise questions and concerns regarding specific aspects of the bill during these proceedings.

The Standing Committee notes that a detailed discussion of the write-off process and relevant provisions of the *Financial Administrative Act* took place during the September 2023 televised committee hearings on the 2021-2022 territorial public accounts. At that time the Government of Nunavut witnesses indicated that the Department of Finance is considering pursuing amendments to the legislation in this area. The Standing Committee continues to look forward to giving careful considerations to any such bill that is introduced in the House. This concludes my opening comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Savikataaq. Are there any general comments from the committee? Seeing none, *Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2023-2024*, clause 1. Please go to part 1 of the schedule, debts written off total \$224,304.59. Any questions? Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these companies in active business right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: They are, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Can the Minister indicate how this came about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I can, through you, have Mr. Abraham Suleiman maybe give the details on the particulars on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Suleiman.

Mr. Suleiman: Thank you, Chair and I thank the member for the question. So back in 2020, Piruqsaijiit Group of Companies had an outstanding balance, of \$3.4 million. Therefore the GN moved forward and applied the setoff, which is essentially a process where we look at what we owe them and what they owe us, and we offset any balances to clear off as much as we can.

At that time it was determined that Piruqsaijiit Group of Companies owed \$1.6 million for 2PPD, 953,000 to QEC, and 870,000 towards the GN.

We communicated the seriousness of the issue and then we began working on a plan. As part of that plan there was included a purchase of buildings in Naujaat and Coral Harbour, using non-cash appropriation the 525, which was used to offset the debt with the GN.

Presently all of the QEC balance of 953,000 has been cleared off. The PPD balance of 1.6 originally has been paid off up to 508,000 and they will continue to make payments to completely pay that off.

The 224 remaining with the GN, once we reviewed the reconciliation of balances we determined that we had AR overpayments, accounts receivable overpayments of leases that was owed to us but we also owe the Piruqsaijiit Group of Companies \$236,000 in O&M related to those lease.

So we determined that by looking at the net impact of those to proceed with the write-off. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you. So again, part 1, debts written off, \$224,304.59. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Please go to part 2. Sorry, is clause 1 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Please go to part 2 of the schedule. Part 2. Assets written off, \$668,997.75. Any questions? Seeing none, part 2. Assets written off. Total \$668,997.75. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Please go to part 3 of the schedule, debts written off. \$2,319,483.19. Any questions?

I'm going to make a comment on this one. Minister, this is quite significant and some of the balances are very high. I would encourage the Minister to work with his collections division to really take a look at some of these extremely high balances of rental arrears. I'll leave that as a comment.

Part 3, debts written off amount being requested \$2,319,483.19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Please go to part 4, assets written off. Total \$221,550. Any questions? Seeing none, part 4, assets written off. Total \$221,550. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Please go to part 5. Assets written down, total \$784,305. Any questions? Seeing none, part 5. Assets written down, total \$784,305. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 56 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, closing comments, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, and I would like to thank Mr. Suleiman for sitting with us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, please remain in your seats. We'll go to the next bill momentarily.

Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Before us we have Bill 65, An Act to Amend *Income Tax Act*. Mr. Kusugak, is there any other officials you would like to add to the witness table? Minister

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, I do Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee allow to have the minister's witness appear with him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please. For the record, Minister, if you could introduce your new official and proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me is Amy Short, Legislative Counsel from Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And my deputy to my right hasn't changed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear before you today to present Bill 65, An Act to Amend the *Income Tax Act*. This bill aims to expand eligibility of the existing tax credit for volunteer firefighters to include search and rescue volunteers.

These proposed amendments recognize the significant contributions of both search and rescue volunteers and volunteer firefighters throughout the territory. Currently the Government of Canada allows search and rescue volunteers to claim a tax credit if they have completed at least 200 hours of eligible service in a year. Our proposed credit can be claimed in addition to Canada's credit.

In addition to adding eligibility for search and rescue volunteers, this bill seeks to reduce the number of volunteer hours required to claim the tax credit from 200 hours to 50 hours. We are making this credit more attainable for those who put themselves at risk to help others in need.

We will ask search and rescue organizations to provide a letter to volunteers each year which they can use as proof when they file their taxes. This is the same process we use for volunteer firefighters.

The tax credit is indexed to inflation, and has grown from \$500 when we first introduced it to \$722 in 2025. The Department of Finance has already consulted with the Canada Revenue Agency regarding the timeline for implementing these changes. If passed, search and rescue volunteers can claim this credit beginning in 2025.

That concludes my opening statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

The Standing Committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill which the Minister described in his opening comments. As members are aware, the territorial *Income Tax Act* was amended 15 years ago in the year 2009 to provide for a tax credit for volunteer firefighters. The Standing Committee supports the provisions of a tax credit for search and rescue volunteers, and encourages the Minister to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the legislation.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, we will go to clause by clause review. Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 65 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, sorry, I put my hand up a little too late. I just wanted a quick clarification, if I may, on the search and rescue tax credit, if the Chair will allow. I see a nod. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Minister, good afternoon to you and your officials. So you're seeking to be able to give a tax credit to search and rescue volunteers. There are some individuals across Nunavut

that can take search and rescue leave from their work, but if they're volunteering after hours, when they're not working, let's say they work 8:30 to 5, so if they're helping from 5 p.m. to midnight over the course of ten days and they accumulate enough of these hours, would they qualify for the tax credit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could have my deputy Mr. Young respond to that; I believe that he would know best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Young.

Mr. Young: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the question. There are sort of two questions there. I think to break it down, to be more clear, anyone who receives compensation for firefighting or for search and rescue in the year can't be considered a volunteer under the current drafting of the bill. However, our interpretation of someone who takes civic leave to do search and rescue is not someone being paid directly for search and rescue. Civically there is an agreement between an employer and an employee that says you can be away from the office for a specific reason, and this reason is search and rescue, but that doesn't mean you're being paid to be a search and rescue professional.

So to summarize your question, someone who takes civic leave to be a search and rescue volunteer is still eligible for the credit, but if they are paid as a search and rescue professional at some point in the year, they won't be eligible for the credit in that year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you to that. Do members agree to Bill 65 -- Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That answer leads me to a question. For instance, the individual is not working. Is he eligible to get that tax? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The way we understand it is if you're not being paid to search, you can. Then you're volunteering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for that. I will try for the third time. Just one moment. Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 65 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 65 on Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, closing comments, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you very much, colleagues, for supporting this important bill. There are hundreds and hundreds of people across the territory who have spend hours and days searching in the coldest of climates, in the harshest of environments and I really appreciate the support of this bill so that we can continue to work hard and search for our lost ones that are out hunting in the harshest of climates to provide for their families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Yourself and your witnesses may be excused. We're going to take a brief break to switch out witnesses for the next bill. I would ask members to remain in your chair. Thank you.

Thank you. I would call to call the committee meeting back to order. Before us we have Bill 52. Minister Joanasie, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to allow witnesses to appear before the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them in. Minister, when they get settled, you can go introduce your officials and go into your opening comments, please, thank you.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I proceed with this Bill before you, before I give my opening comments I would just like to recognize, while I was an Acting Minister for Arctic College the students, and today is Inuit day, and those who were students here to mention their names and where they're from.

Valley Toolook (ph), Iqaluit; Levi Kakkik (ph), Pangnirtung; Kiki Tamyanyapiq (ph), Pangnirtung; Geela Mosesie (ph), Pangnirtung; Sipu Tamyanyapiq (ph), Pangnirtung, and Shauna Ulayuk (ph) from Clyde River. And along with them their teacher, Papatsie Kudluk (ph) from Iqaluit. Welcome. And hopefully you will succeed with your academics.

Mr. Chair, I'm here before you and before the committee to discuss Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*, and appearing before you with me are Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley and Amy Short, Legislative Counsel.

Mr. Chair, the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* provides for the efficient and flexible administration of codes and technical standards for electrical installations, elevating devices, boilers and pressure vessels, and gas installation and distribution systems.

This act will replace three existing safety acts: the *Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act*, the *Electrical Protection Act*, and the *Gas Protection Act*.

The *Technical Standards and Safety Act* is not currently in force, and in order to bring it into force the three existing safety acts must be repealed simultaneously. Repealing these acts requires that four new regulations are drafted and ready to come into force at the same time.

Securing and coordinating subject matter experts in distinct disciplines to guide the drafting of these technical regulations, combined with the evolving nature of safety standards, have made it challenging to complete all four regulations concurrently. Bill 52 proposes a stepped approach to bring the act into force in stages, by allowing the *Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act*, the *Electrical Protection Act*, and the *Gas Protection Act* to be repealed separately.

Mr. Chair, this approach will enable my departmental staff to focus on finalizing the regulations for each discipline independently, which will ultimately bring the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* into force in the timeliest manner.

I thank members for the consideration of this bill and will welcome questions from the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the Committee of Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*.

The Standing Committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill which the Minister described in his opening comments. The *Technical Standards and Safety Act* was passed in the year 2002 during the first Legislative Assembly, over two decades ago. The Standing Committee is concerned that the government has been unable to produce the necessary new regulations to allow the act to be brought into force. Members recognize

that the existing safety regulations made under a number of separate statutes that were inherited on the division remains in force.

The Standing Committee encourages the Minister to provide regular updates to the Legislative Assembly concerning its progress in developing the new regulations. The issue of the government's capacity to develop significant volumes of complex new regulation in a timely manner extends beyond this bill. For example, although the Legislative Assembly passed the new *Liquor Tax Act* in the year 2022, it has still not been brought into force. The *Medical Profession Act* which was passed by the Legislative Assembly in the year 2020, is also not yet in force.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, I will now review the clause on Bill 52. Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*, clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Malliki, you have a question?

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chairman of the legislation committee just said, if this bill is passed, when will it be implemented? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie (interpretation): My apologies, Mr. Chairman. Sorry to make you wait. The regulations will have to be worked on first, and I am unable to say as to when they will be completed. However, I have an understanding they will need to use some expert advice to write them. But I will keep my colleagues and MLAs aware of what's happening as we are working on the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 52?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 52 on Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Closing comments, Minister.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair and thank you for the question and your consideration and dealing with this quickly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

Minister, do you have any other officials you would like to swap in? Minister Joanasie.

Hon. David Joanasie: If you allow Mr. Chair, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you does the committee allow the Minister's witness to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please. When they get settled, Minister, you can introduce your new official and proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. David Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chair and I am again pleased to appear before the committee to discuss Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act*. Here with me are Deputy Minister Kyle Seeley, as well as Thomas Ahlfors, Chief Legislative Counsel.

Mr. Chair, the *Property Assessment and Taxation Act*, Nunavut's property assessment administration, The act sets out how properties are defined, created, transferred, assessed and taxed.

Bill 58 provides the base year modifiers and cost indices which are two factors developed every year for use in property assessments that are published by ministerial notice in the *Nunavut Gazette*.

Bill 58 also describes the goal of the methodology to develop the base year modifiers and cost indices and adds a requirement to publish the methodology used to determine these annual factors online.

Currently new base year modifiers and cost indices must be incorporated into the property assessment regulations, otherwise the appropriate factor for the most recent incorporated year is used. New base year modifiers and cost indices are usually not available in time to be added to the regulations through the regular cabinet submission

process prior to the deadline for the certified assessment role. The process to publish in the Nunavut *Gazette* will provide enough time to issue an annual notice so that the most current cost indices can be used in property assessments.

Mr. Chair, approval of Bill 58 will facilitate use of the most up-to-date cost indices in property assessments, which will result in more fair and equitable assessments for taxpayers. It will also enhance transparency regarding base year modifiers and cost indices, and the methodology to calculate them.

I thank members for consideration of this bill and welcome questions from the committee. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair on the Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the chair of the Standing Committee of Legislation, I wish to make some brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 58, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

The Standing Committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the Minister described in his opening comments. This is a technical initiative. The Standing Committee encourages the government to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the administration of this legislation.

This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. There are any general comments from the committee members. Seeing none, we will proceed directly to the clause.

Bill 58, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 58?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put bill 58 on Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Please closing comments, Minister.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I would like to thank my officials that appeared before me in preparation for this appearance.

Have a Happy Inuit Day, everyone, (interpretation) and I wish all Inuit to have a great day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Witnesses may be excused. Members, please stay in your seats and we'll proceed directly to the next bill. Just give us a moment.

Thank you. I would like to call the committee back to order. Before us we have Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Minister Akeeagok, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee?

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Do committee members agree to allow the Minister's witnesses to appear before you?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Minister, once they get settled you can introduce your witnesses and you can proceed directly to your opening comments. Thank you.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm here today to discuss Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. The Government of Nunavut uses miscellaneous statutes amendments legislation to correct minor errors, inconsistencies, or outdated terminology in the Nunavut statutes, to clean them up and make technical improvements.

Bill 51 amends 14 statutes. Most importantly, it corrects translation errors in French version of six acts to ensure the English and French versions are consistent, and to promote certainty in the law.

Additionally, Bill 51 also repeals or updates reference to now repealed federal laws in seven acts and updates one provision in another act and makes it grammatically correct and easier to read.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will now take questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation have opening comments? Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Legislation, I wish to make some very brief opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. The Standing Committee recognizes the overall purpose of the bill, which the Minister described in his opening comments. This is a technical and non-contentious initiative. This concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Savikataaq. Any general comments? Seeing none, I will proceed directly to clause by clause.

Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 51 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 51 on Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, brief closing comments, please.

Hon. David Akeagok: (interpretation): Thank you very much again for passing this, and our staff do real hard work, I'm always very grateful to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker: Thank you. Witnesses may be excused. Members, we will take a five-minute break and prepare for the next two bills. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 15:27 and resumed at 15:34

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. Before us we have Bill 62, *An Act to Amend The Integrity Act*. Speaker Akoak, do you have any officials you would like to appear before the committee with you?

Speaker Akoak: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree with his officials appearing with him?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Please proceed. The speaker's officials appearing with him. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, if you could introduce your official and proceed directly to your opening comments, please.

Hon. Tony Akoak: The Member sitting beside me is the Clerk of the Assembly in Nunavut, Mr. Quirke.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide opening comments concerning Bill 62, *An Act to Amend The Integrity Act*.

Bill 62 amends *The Integrity Act* to require that Members' disclosure statements be made publicly accessible on the website of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner.

The Bill also establishes a requirement for copies of trust agreements entered into by Ministers to be provided to the Integrity Commissioner.

These amendments flow from recommendations made by the Integrity Commissioner in her recent annual reports to the Legislative Assembly, and will serve to enhance the transparency of our system of public reporting under the legislation.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members have any general comments to the opening comments? Seeing none, we will proceed directly to clause by clause. Bill 62, *An Act to Amend The Integrity Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 62 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to put Bill 62 on Order of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Speaker Akoak, brief closing comments.

Speaker Akoak: Thank you for supporting the bill. Mr. Chair. Thanks to the committee.

Chairman: Thank you. We'll proceed directly to Bill 63. Speaker Akoak, do you want to proceed to your opening comments, please.

Hon. Tony Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide opening comments concerning Bill 63, An Act to Amend the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

This Bill amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* to provide for returns of contributions in certain circumstances, and to address the situation of Members who reach the age of 71 years while in office.

I wish to note that this Bill will not have any significant impact on the Legislative Assembly's expenditures under these pieces of legislation.

Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions that my colleagues may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I go to ask for general comments, I would like to recognize a couple of people in the gallery. Karliin Aariak, our Languages Commissioner.

>> *Applause*

And no stranger to this House, Mr. Speaker, a former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and longtime MLA here in Iqaluit, Hunter Tootoo.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: I'll now ask if any committee members have any general comments to the opening comments. Seeing none, I'll proceed directly to the clause by clause.

Bill 63, An Act to Amend the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9 agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do Members agree to Bill 63 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do Members agree to put Bill 63 on Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Speaker Akoak, brief closing comments, please.

Speaker Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Clerk sitting beside me for all the help throughout the years in this Assembly. You make things run smoothly. Thank you for supporting the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you. It is my absolute pleasure and privilege to say that Mr. Quirke may leave the witness table for the final time in his storied and respected career. Witness, you may leave the table.

>> *Extended Applause*

Chairman: As the committee business is concluded for the day, I will now rise and report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Committee adjourned and House resumed at 15:42*

Speaker: Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Hickes.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's quite a list so I am actually going to use the paper today. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63, and 65, and I would like to report that all the bills are ready for third reading.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker: Is there a seconder? Ms. Brewster. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills, Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 53 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act. No. 3, 2023-2024 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act. No. 3, 2023-2024* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance. My apologies, colleagues. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 54 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 55 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance Act) No. 1, 2024-2025 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance Act) No. 1, 2024-2025* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills, Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 56 – Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act 2023-2024 – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 56, *Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act 2023-2024* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills, Minister of Finance, Mr. Kusugak.

Bill 65 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I move seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq that Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasie.

Bill 52 – An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: A motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third reading of bills, Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joanasié.

Bill 58 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third reading of bills, Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Bill 51 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Bill 62 – An Act to Amend The Integrity Act – Third Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 63 (sic), *An Act to Amend The Integrity Act*, be read for the third time.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Third Reading of Bills. Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Bill 63 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Third Reading

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring*

Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, can you ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to the Bills.

>>*Applause*

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Aariak (interpretation): As Commissioner of Nunavut, I'm pleased to give assent to the following Bills:

Bill 51, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*;

Bill 52, *An Act to Amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act*;

Bill 53, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2023-2024*;

Bill 54, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2024-2025*;

Bill 55, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2024-2025*;

Bill 56, *Write-Off of Assets Act 2023-2024*;

Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act*;

Bill 61, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2025-2026*;

Bill 62, *An Act to Amend The Integrity Act*;

Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act and the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*; and

Bill 65, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*.

Those are the bills, even though there's quite a few.

As the water turns to ice in winter's cold embrace, eventually we find warmth and joy. And as you prepare to return to your constituencies and families, I wish you safe travels.

Stephen Innuksuk is now the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and I'm very proud of you. I have known him for many years, and I think he had a very good teacher and is now the Clerk.

Tribute to the Clerk

(interpretation ends) As I leave the Chamber, I would like to say a few words to recognize the amazing work of retiring Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, John Quirke.

I have known John. Where is John? There he is. I have known John for many years, going back to my time with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

I really appreciated the time John's generosity was given to me, as I was appointed as the Languages Commissioner. He provided me with an office in the Legislative Assembly, because there was no office space available, but he provided me one upstairs. And when he showed me, he opened the door of the office, there was a desk, a chair, and a computer and a telephone. No frills, but that was a very good start. Thank you, John.

John Quirke has been an iconic leader in this Legislative Assembly. He has always ensured that the rules in our consensus-style government, supported by responsible government, or Westminster-style government, have been followed.

He has provided me with a valuable assistance in fulfilling my role as Commissioner of Nunavut when giving assents to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly and swearing in members of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council.

Every so often when we were in the Members' Lounge patiently waiting for me to enter the Chambers, John would share a joke relating to all the work that has to be done in the Legislative Assembly, giving us a laugh and a lightening up of the mood. I'm sure a bit of humour helps, because I know there is never a dull moment behind the scenes at the Legislative Assembly, and the fact that the work never ends.

And I'm sure the new Clerk is well aware of that. (interpretation) Thank you very much, John, (interpretation ends) for all you have done. Qujannamiik.

>> *Applause*

(Commissioner exits)

Speaker: Before we proceed with the *Orders of the Day* I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our retiring Clerk, Mr. John Quirke.

I also wish to welcome our distinguished guests to the House, including Acting Chief Justice Susan Cooper, and former mayor Mary Wellman.

As members are aware, John has been in public service for over half a century. His career with the territorial government started in the early 1970s, back when this community was still known as Frobisher Bay.

Prior to division, John served in a number of deputy minister-level positions in the government of the Northwest Territories.

John was formally appointed as the first Clerk of our Legislative Assembly by way of motion of the House at its first sitting on April 1, 1999.

Over the course, John has served six Legislative Assemblies. Over that time period, there have been a total of 85 people who have sat as members of the Legislative Assembly. Some of those have caused him more headaches than others.

>>*Laughter*

John has served 13 speakers and ten deputy speakers. He has been with us for over 955 sitting days, and the passage of over 500 bills, including over 50 House bills.

He has provided sound advice at countless meetings of our caucuses, committees, and the Management and Services Board.

I am confident that I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that John has always been a rock of calm during our Assembly's most turbulent moments.

As John prepares for the next chapter in his life, please join me in wishing him his wife, Annie, their children and grandchildren, the very best. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: I now invite the Minister of Human Resources to present a gift. This gift was originally planned to have been presented on John's 50th anniversary of service, but the last few years have been very eventful and we never quite found the right time. Minister Gross.

>>*Applause*

I now invite members to offer reflections on this occasion. Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. Hickes.

Mr. Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep it short; I know other members want to pay tribute to the unbelievable career that John has had.

I've gotten to know John quite well over the last 15 years since I first started working in this building as an executive assistant on the second floor, and now as a Deputy Speaker, and for a couple of brief moments the actual Speaker, a couple of times.

Just the integrity that John brings to the table. I've travelled with him a number of times to our Management Services Board meetings. The integrity that he brings to the table, the humour, as was mentioned earlier. We've had many a chuckle in this House and outside this House, and a number of different venues.

I can't thank John enough for the personal guidance that he's provided to me on a number of occasions. I know one as of my first points of call, other than my other political advisor that we talk about once in a while as well, too, the former Speaker of Manitoba, my father.

Mr. Clerk, God speed. I think you deserve the rest that you're hopefully going to take. I know you probably don't know what you're going to do with your days without the trials and tribulations of this building, sometimes, but just the level of professionalism that you portray and that you bring to the table, I can't thank you enough, sir.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for South Baffin, Mr. Joanasic.

Hon. David Joanasic: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a special day today, to honour and recognize our Clerk of the Assembly on our last day of the fall sitting, and to put it very shortly, I think 11 years ago, when I first became a member for South Baffin, many people probably thought is he going to sink or swim. I want to thank John for his advice and always providing that no bull words and comments, to not just myself but my colleagues over the last three Assemblies, and providing that service to Nunavummiut. I wish him well on his endeavours in your retirement, along with your family. It's well deserved congratulations and enjoy the rest of your years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I too want to express thank you to our Clerk. When Nunavut was created we both got a job in the Government of Nunavut in different roles, and I've been into a lot of different roles, but John has been a fixture in this House. When I became an elected official, the

guidance and the integrity that belongs in this is rooted from your advice. So I wanted to give a huge thank you for this.

Mr. Clerk is probably the last deputy minister that was appointed in the first government when we started as a Clerk, so this is quite a legacy that you're going to hold. I don't think nobody's going to get to that same level. So I really want to thank you.

(interpretation) As well your wife, whom I really want to express gratitude who is always beside you, and I know her well and she's there always in her home and working and great that you will be home as one family and do whatever you want to do. Happy endeavours in your retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Mr. Clerk. For reasons unknown to me, I spent countless hours watching the Legislative Assembly during the Fourth Assembly, and of course the most common face of that day was of course Speaker Qulaut, but of course right next to him was the one and only Mr. John Quirke.

You know, at that time I just thought that the clerk was the person that would pass the messages to the speaker, or read the Orders of the Day at the end of the sitting day. Was I ever in for a big surprise when I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly and realized the shoes that you really wear in being the connecting factor between the executive and the legislative branches of government.

I will forever be grateful for the amount of times that I've sought your advice and experience and utilized your knowledge. It's going to be sad to see you go. And of course you do have very big shoes to fill, but you can rest assured as I'm sure we all are in our faith in the next clerk, Mr. Stephen Innukshuk.

In closing, I can think of at least one instance where John Quirke came in behind the scenes and really saved Nunavummiut. And if only people knew how much they are indebted to you, and for that I really want to thank you for that, and your 25 years with a front-row seat to the Nunavut political show.

I really hope you'll enjoy your retirement, and I cannot wait to read your first novel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Aivilik, Mr. Malliki.

Mr. Malliki (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to join in congratulating in 1999, I saw John for the first time with the first sitting of the Nunavut government, and I was very proud of him, and very proud now that I am able to participate in your retirement, and looking at John's start and the end to his retirement.

He has served much to the Nunavummiut. As he was mentioned here, a lot of effort and work he has put in, which I am very appreciative of, and grateful in guiding us and advising us further that in the work that we do as MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Cambridge Bay, Ms. Gross.

Hon. Pamela Gross: As Minister of Human Resources, it's my pleasure to say a few words to recognize our beloved clerk. We all know John Quirke as one of Nunavut's most important public servants in Nunavut's 25-year history.

Today is bittersweet. We must celebrate his upcoming, very well-earned retirement, after more than 50 years of dedicated public service as our first and only clerk since 1999.

Each of us knows John as a humble man, a man who never seeks credit, and all offers wisdom and sage solutions that advance the work of this House.

They say that public service is a commitment to the greater good, and that true public service transcends personal gain and glory. It's a deep commitment to the public, integrity, and transparency, and often comes with personal sacrifice at the expense of an individual gain.

When I think about role models, I think about our clerk and the example he has set, which proves just how impactful and meaningful a public service career can be. I know he has impacted each member of this House.

We've heard some of those stories here amongst us today, and I know we'll continue to hear them in the future. We have no doubt that many of you are ready to share more wonderful accolades about his wisdom, humour, charm and non-stop commitment to this House.

I believe that every great public servant started as someone who simply wanted to make a difference. John Quirke has made enormous impact, and we're all grateful for his unmatched legacy of true public service. Alianaqtuq. Happy retirement, John. *Quana*.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Rankin Inlet South, Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I remember meeting John the first time was back in the late '70s, in the previous government, when he worked as Deputy Minister. He worked with many members at the time, people like Mr. Paniloo, Ludy Padluk, William Noah, Dennis Patterson. I was thinking of those people today. Mr. Evaluarjuk, Richard Nearsoo and Mr. Butters, that you served under for many years. Mr. Stewart.

During those years, I used to work with CBC radio back then, and used to cover the legislature. And at that time we've seen cups fly across the room, from one member to a Minister. We've seen near fist fights in the room with Mr. McCallum, for example, and we've seen whole days of bells ringing because the regular members refuse to enter the House, back in the day.

In fact, one time, Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Quirke was there when Mr. Sibbeston took off his sports coat and shirt right in the chambers. That was the start of being able to wear traditional clothing in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, one of the items you forgot to mention when you were saying how many bills he sat through was the eight Stanley Cups Montreal Canadiens won, while Mr. Quirke was serving in the public service. I think that's the most cups won, while he was sitting here. Mr. Quirke is a great Montreal Canadiens fan, a great hockey fan. If you should switch over and join the club.

Mr. Speaker, just in closing, I just want to thank Mr. Quirke for the great public service and remind everybody that public service is not done by an individual, but it takes commitment from the whole family to be able to serve, and serve your service well; it's not a one person thing. It includes your spouse, your children and your grandchildren and siblings. I would like to thank John and his family's support that he's been able to serve the public of Nunavut for as long as he has.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good luck in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

Ms. Brewster: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I think it goes without saying that there are so many members who were lucky to avail of your guidance and your help, especially for those of us who are new members. And I feel especially privileged to be sitting next to you. We've had a lot of fun. And, Mr. Clerk, you've also stopped me from doing things that might have gotten me in trouble, and I appreciate that.

I think we became friends in Calgary, when I tried so hard to offer you help, and you would not accept it, because you are so used to being the person helping others. And I'll tell you that Mr. Clerk did eventually accept my help, and then offered to take me out for

dinner. We sat down and looked at the menu, and I got really excited because there was a Korean hot dog on the menu, and Mr. Clerk said to me, "There's no way I'm buying a \$20 hot dog for anyone." So I had something else. I took his advice that night as well.

Thank you so much for your service. And I want to thank your family as well for sharing you with the public for so long. And I know that you are looking forward to spending more time with your family. And I wish you all the best and good health and love in your retirement. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

Hon. P.J. Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too feel so privileged to be able to have learned so much from Mr. Quirke. The warm welcome, but also the incredible guidance you gave right from orientation on to today. I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to work with you.

Just looking around the room, just the sheer impact that you have on every one of us.

I think there are two sets of families in our lives. The immediate family, I'm so thankful to be surrounded by your family and your friends around here, but also your family that has supported you here, in the Assembly. And to see all the staff here as well is something that is so moving. So I really want to thank them as well for supporting you to support us all the way through. So it's something that I am so thankful for.

And just looking around the room, just the feel that we have you really built an incredible Iglulillu foundation for passing the torch over to Mr. Innuksuk, who I know will continue to build the Iglulillu that we're in surrounded by to continue to build the foundations of the integrity that we just heard. All of us have seen and witnessed both here, and outside of here as well.

With that, I want to thank your wife. I know the incredible sacrifice that she's done with your family to be home with the kids, so that you could help all Nunavummiut, and that is something that I am so thankful for, that she allowed you to be with us so that we could help Nunavummiut. And for that, I really can't thank the amazing sacrifices that she had made for the work that you've done with over 50 years of public service. That is an incredible achievement that we all look up to. Thank you for your amazing service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Netsilik, Mr. Quqqiaq.

Mr. Quqqiaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is very honourable to rise today to say thank you to Mr. Quirke for all your service you have done to Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I always watched the proceedings since the beginning of Nunavut, and what I liked most was hearing Mr. Quirke saying the Orders of the Day was always the best to hear.

Mr. Speaker, when I first got elected into office, I called Mr. Quirke up. His wife answered and told me that she was he was sleeping, and I'm like, "Let Mr. Quirke rest," and then she tells me, "No, he wants to take a phone call when an MLA calls."

Right then and there, Mr. Speaker, he cares for all of Nunavut. That's the kind of a great person he is. I'm happy he contributed to Nunavummiut.

My apologies. I start to be tough. I didn't want to break down, but it's just so emotional too, and it's a privilege to be here to say thank you to Mr. Quirke.

One time, Mr. Quirke, when me and you and Mr. Speaker from the airport, you brought us, we went to the Capital Suites, and what struck me most when I told Mr. Quirke there's a moving van truck in the city, and it looks like ice cream truck. And then I told Mr. Quirke, "My son asked me if there was an ice cream truck." And he said, "No, son, that's a moving van," and Mr. Quirke giggled and right then and there he loves my son I thought.

I tried to be tough. It's very emotional to see you go. Thank you, Mr. Quirke. I wish I could say more, but it's just so hard right now. I wish you all the best.

I thank your family for their support, for supporting you for being the Clerk that you were. You're the best clerk to this government; the only clerk, in fact. I know Stephen will do a great job. Stephen's always been here too, so I think thank both of you greatly for what you do to Nunavummiut.

I'm kind of lost for words, Mr. Speaker, but thank you, Mr. Quirke. I wish you all the best. I'm happy for you and your family. You'll get to spend all the quality time that you need with your family, and I'm pretty sure they will be happy to have you at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you everybody.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Arviat South, Mr. Savikataaq.

Mr. Savikataaq: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, John, I just want to thank you for all your many years of service. I've had many meetings with you in your office; some intense, some enjoyable, some not so enjoyable, but we've had many meetings.

And I guess I'm partially to blame why this day has to be too, Mr. Clerk. We all know that there were some health issues here, and my advice to John Quirke was you put so many years of service into your job. Family matters. So maybe I started to ball rolling.

On a different note, every time John probably wanted to retire, the people of the Department of Finance might have tried to talk him out of it saying, "I don't know, maybe you should just wait because I'm half expecting a supp bill to come in the winter sitting for the severance pay that's going to happen for his 50-plus years of service." Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Qavvik.

Hon. Daniel Qavvik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Quirke, Mr. Clerk; rhyming name and the job.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate your many years of service, John. It's been a pleasure to see you around the Assembly.

When I first became an MLA, when I came to Iqaluit, Mr. Quirke was there in the airport to pick me up. And the next day at the time when we get to this Assembly, 8 a.m. sharp he was there too, and ready to provide orientation to the newly elected MLAs.

I just wanted to congratulate the many years of your service. Enjoy your retirement with your family and friends.

Everyone around this room are your friends. They look up to you. You're the best teacher to your newly appointed clerk today, and I'm sure he will do great under your guidance and support that you have provided to him throughout the many years of your service. Congratulations, Mr. Clerk, and have a blissful time with your family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Aggu, Ms. Quassa.

Ms. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody said almost everything now, but I'm very thankful too, and I would like to express my gratitude to you reaching your retirement.

I know we haven't known each other for a long time, but you have taught me a lot in only three years that I've been here. He has taught me so much, and I'm so grateful for that.

He will be able to be with his family more now. When we come here next year, I know we're going to miss him. I have every confidence in his replacement will do as good a job. But I'm very grateful, and I hope that he has a good rest in his retirement. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll keep this short. I want to thank John from the bottom of my heart.

We started e-mailing back and forth actually before I became an MLA. There were times when there was a tabled document that I wanted a copy of. This is before documents were made available online, and it was pretty quick actually to e-mail them back to me. It was within a day or two. So that was very efficient.

And then when I became an MLA, I started texting back and forth, and we had a few phone calls on evenings and weekends. He was always helpful, always gave me advice. And there was actually a couple of times when he asked me for my thoughts and opinions, which was very humbling to me. He reached out to cover all bases, and that is just goes to show his integrity, his thoughts, he wants to think of everyone.

And like Daniel said, he goes to the airport to drop people off, or pick them up, and make sure they get to their destinations.

You are leaving big shoes behind, and we are confident Stephen will do his best, but it's big shoes to fill. It will take Stephen a while. But thank you very much, John Quirke, and your family as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I have no more names. I will now invite the clerk to offer his reflections. Mr. Clerk.

Mr. Clerk: Thank you for all the kind words. First of all, I'll probably ramble on a bit. 'A', I will not write a book, but I might start a business called consulting services. Thank you.

One of the things that I appreciate is that the services I provided, not just me, but through the team around me that worked with me, is trust. I believe that it was important for me that at the end of the day, the Members could look at me and say, "I trust the clerk." I think that's one of the most important things in this position, is to have the trust of the Members.

And in all the years I've served, of 25 years essentially, the trust is mutual from each one of you. I will never betray the integrity of this fine institution. You can rest assured, for example, when I do leave the building at the end of December, I'm still around for a couple more months, I will never betray the trust of this institution. It's very important. We've always said what we speak in in-camera meetings, it stays in the room. It will definitely stay in the room when I leave this fine institution.

It takes a team to deliver the services of all the Members. It's not just me. It's the people that are part of my team, my staff. When we work as a group, we serve everybody as a group. They are also key to the success of this conversation.

The present staff, Alex, my neighbour from across the street; one of the first persons I hired to Sibion came on next essentially to former employees. The names may mean nothing, Steve Pollock in Finance; and Mike Rafter, who's still with the government right now; two former employees like Jennifer Susie, who is in Ottawa, she's one of former employees that are in the building right now. Brandon, my first executive assistant, who was stolen from me by NTI, and Virginia as a colleague, et cetera. I can't (indiscernible) because they were part of our overall team.

When I think back of when I first started in '71, I came to Frobisher Bay in '65. There were days I could walk across the runway and go fishing and not be stopped. They were days when the RCMP would actually stop and give you a ride home. Those days have changed.

When I came back permanently in '71, I actually started off as a casual in DPW, and from there ended up becoming a regional controller. This is originally controller in Frobisher, and travelled back and forth to Inuvik for six months, back to Frobisher Bay, and into Yellowknife as Assistant Chief Accountant and back to it was still called Frobisher Bay in those days, Assistant Regional Director and then back to Yellowknife, eventually the Deputy Minister for nearly 20 years, 1980 to 1998 before I was asked to come over to help with the position in the Northwest Territories.

I wish my wife was here with me tonight, but she's at home resting. Members are correct, the family is very important to you, to support you, et cetera. I'm proud of the fact that all of our children. My first daughter, Teresa Nowdluk of course born in Iqaluit. The two boys were born in Rankin. The grandchildren are born in Norman Wells. They are Northerners, true from day one. It's good to see them. They wanted myself and Annie to come home to Cambridge, Ontario and settle down there, but we're here for a couple years more. We'll see what happens, et cetera.

But at the end of day, like I said, trust is very important, but the team around you is very important. And I'm very appreciative of them also, as we worked as a group.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I'm not a pretty open person, but it seems that my two-and-a-half minutes that I'm allowed have passed. I will now ask for an extension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now take a brief trip back in time to see how Orders of the Day were read back in the late 20th century, at the beginning of the first Legislative Assembly.

(Video being played)

Speaker: Too far back in time, trying to catch it.

(Video being played)

Speaker: We'll do the last Orders of the Day. I want to thank all the people that made everything possible, with the staff behind the scenes as well as our translator, interpreters. Thank you so very much.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I thank you very much for Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun interpreters who have been here all this time.

>> *Applause*

I would like to thank all the faces here looking after us. Sometimes we don't have any. I thank them all for coming to keep us refreshed. And I would like to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: I would like to thank my staff in front of me that keep helping me try not to make too many mistakes. I would like to thank them very much for helping me out, sitting up here.

For all members going home, enjoy your winter. Go hunting, go fishing. Enjoy the life. You've done so much this past trip. Thank you very much.

Speaker: A motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for February 20, 2025:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

>>*Applause*

I invite all members, guests, and staff in the building to join us for a reception in the foyer following the adjournment.

I also would like to take this opportunity to make two announcements. As Members are aware, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut and the first sitting of the First Legislative Assembly, April 1, 1999.

This year also marks the resumption of the Speakers mace tour. Earlier this year the mace visited the beautiful communities of Coral Harbour, Kugaaruk, Naujaat and Taloyoak. Next month I will have the pleasure of travelling with the mace to Clyde River, Kimmirut

and Qikiqtarjuaq. By the end of this year the mace will have visited schools and other facilities in all of Nunavut's 25 communities.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Her Honour, the Commissioner, for being a part of this initiative presenting Commissioners award to a number of Nunavummiut.

I also wish to announce that the annual Christmas lights across Canada ceremony will be held here, at the Legislative Assembly, at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024.

This House stands adjourned until Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:49*

